

PLO leaders endorse Oslo 2 accord in Tunis

CAIRO (AP) — The PLO Executive Committee has endorsed the Oslo 2 accord with Israel on expanding Palestinian self-rule to the remainder of the territories, PLO officials said yesterday.

The approval came during a meeting Tuesday night in Tunis.

The officials said in telephone interviews that Palestine Liberation Organization leader Yasser Arafat had no difficulty persuading the seven committee members at the session to back the accord.

After Tuesday night's meeting, Yasser Arafat, a member of the committee, told reporters that the group "agreed in principle" on the accord, which calls for a phased pullback of IDF troops from cities, towns, villages and refugee camps in Judea and Samaria to allow for Palestinian elections.

However, Rabbo said the committee demanded that the Israeli redeployment "should start 10 days after the signing" of the pact today.

Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat said Tuesday that the PLO was still waiting to hear from Israel on a timetable for starting the withdrawal.

"At this moment we have not yet finalized dates for the redeployment, and that's a major hanging issue in the whole agreement," Erekat told reporters in

Jericho. "I hope that we will be able to finish."

There are other remaining issues that haven't been resolved, including the fate of some 5,500 Palestinians still held in Israeli jails. Arafat also has demanded that the size of the autonomous area around the town of Jericho be expanded.

Abed Rabbo said that seven of the committee's remaining 10 members were at Tuesday's meeting. Eight have resigned over the peace process or are no longer participating.

One member expressed reservations over parts of the agreement, Abed Rabbo said without elaborating.

Among those who did not attend was Farouk Kaddoumi, who serves as the PLO's foreign minister and who has consistently opposed the peace deal with Israel.

PLO officials in Tunis said yesterday that Arafat had briefed Syrian President Hafez Assad on the deal to Assad through the Syrian charge d'affaires in Tunis, whom he met on Tuesday night.

The Syrian press on Tuesday described the PLO-Israel deal, as a "surrender" and said it would not force Syria to sign a similar agreement with Israel.

Arafat told Reuters last night he hoped the pact would clear the

way for a comprehensive peace in the Middle East including Syria and Lebanon.

While in London yesterday en route to Washington, Arafat said he wants the division of Jerusalem between Arab and Jew.

"I am ready to have Jerusalem as a capital for two peoples and as a capital for two states as in Rome," Arafat said, referring to the Vatican's autonomy in the Italian capital.

"The east part will be for the Arabs and the west part for the Israelis," he added, talking to accompanying reporters at London's Heathrow Airport.

Earlier, Arafat met with Prime Minister John Major to discuss the agreement that will hand over most Arab-populated areas to Palestinian control after the IDF withdraws.

Major, standing alongside Arafat after the 30-minute meeting at the prime minister's Downing Street office, said he hoped elections could be held as early as December or January.

"I know the chairman [Arafat] has some very heavy negotiations still ahead of him next year," said Major. "But they have already determined the time-scale at which those talks will start. The prospects for the future seem brighter than any I can imagine just a short time ago."



Palestinians scuffle with IDF soldiers in Hebron yesterday as they try to evacuate a man suffering a heart attack. (AP)

PA officials lead Hebron protest

OFFICIALS of the Palestinian Authority led a march in Hebron yesterday to demonstrate their opposition to the Jewish settlement in the city, left in place under the Oslo 2 agreement.

Mutawakel Taha, the director-general of the Information and Culture Ministry, said, "We accept the leadership of Yasser Arafat."

"For well-known reasons he accepted temporary arrangements, but did not recognize the legality of the settlers."

The protests were meant as a warning because "the continued presence of the settlers is enough to torpedo the whole peace process regardless of the agreement

in Taba," said Taha.

About 200 participated including Hebron Mayor Mustafa Natshe.

Gush Shalom leader Uri Avnery expressed solidarity with the people of "Al-Khaili." Sheikh Tayseer Tamimi, a

leading Hebron cleric, disputed Jewish religious claims to Hebron, saying Abraham was neither Jew nor Christian but a man who "surrendered himself to God," which in Arabic reads as "Hanifan-Muslim."

Border policemen prevented the marchers from entering the main street of the Old City to confront settlers.

Jordan Valley residents ask Rabin not to expand size of Jericho

JORDAN Valley residents appealed to Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin yesterday not to enlarge the Palestinian enclave in Jericho when he discusses the issue with PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat in Washington today.

JACOB DALLAL

In Taba, it was agreed that Rabin and Arafat would discuss the matter at the signing ceremony. "The area of Jericho already borders on the [Jordan Valley]

settlements, any further enlargement will be at our expense," said David Levy, head of the Jordan Valley Regional Council.

Levy said that the Prime Minister's Office responded to the residents' appeal by saying their security will be maintained. But Levy said he is waiting to see what emerges from the meeting. Levy said the situation in Jericho has deteriorated since the Palestinians took control, and expanding the area would only make this worse.

"Jericho has turned into the Palestinian's West Point; it's the training ground for Jibril Rajoub's men," he said.

He advises Israelis living in areas which will soon border the Palestinian Authority to be alert.

"Take into account that the IDF is no longer responsible for security. Open your eyes more: watch your property, watch yourselves. We are not speaking of a sympathetic neighbor or one with whom there is peace in the classic sense of the word," Levy said.

Kahalani: I'll vote against agreement unless my questions are answered

MICHAEL YUELMAN

MK Avigdor Kahalani of The Third Way said yesterday that unless Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin can persuade him that Israel's security will be preserved under the Oslo 2 agreement, he will vote against it.

Kahalani said he insists on seeing the agreement and receiving the details of the three-part withdrawal from the "C" zone which is in Israel's control before making up his mind.

"I believe this is an important agreement," Kahalani said. "I

am in favor of separating between us and the Arabs, I am for the peace process, I don't want to remain in Jenin or in Kalkiya. But I have questions and nobody can give me an answer."

"Whoever put me in the Knesset expects me to preserve the state and monitor the government. If I receive satisfactory answers to my questions, I will support the agreement. But before I vote, I have a right to see a map, to know what the agreement

leads to and to where we will withdraw."

"I don't want Rabin's government to fall and I am filled with admiration for Rabin the man," he said. "But [according to the agreement] the problem of Jerusalem will not be solved, nor will the issues of the permanent borders, the water, the Palestinians right of return... Why aren't these issues settled now, why are they getting rid of all the assets and putting these bombs on our

threshold, to explode in our faces? Who can assure us that terrorists won't penetrate into Israel and we will not be able to act against them?"

MK Emanuel Zissman announced yesterday that he will vote against the Oslo 2 agreement, as he had done when the government approved the first part of it. He estimated that Kahalani will also vote against it "since he took part in two meetings of the Third Way institutions, at which the Oslo agreement was unanimously rejected."

Merom: If Knesset rejects Oslo 2, early elections will be necessary

MICHAEL YUELMAN

IF THE Oslo 2 agreement is not approved by the Knesset next Thursday, there will be no choice but to dissolve the House and hold early elections, House Committee chairman Hagai Merom said yesterday.

Merom said that although he is not versed in the constitutional implications, "in my opinion, dissolving the Knesset will be inevitable. Because even if the vote is not declared a confidence motion, it implies confidence in the government's main political direction."

He said that should the Knesset vote against the agreement, the government must keep its commitments to the PLO. "The issue is the government's ability to govern. Once it loses its ability to do so, it

must go to elections," he said.

Merom expressed confidence, however, that the agreement will be approved, although the decision will probably be made at the very last moment.

Speaker Shevah Weiss said that rejection of a political proposal of such magnitude presented by the cabinet would be unprecedented, and therefore there is no set formalistic answer to the question "what would happen if."

"The possibility that Oslo 2 will not be approved by the Knesset is so serious and unprecedented, that I cannot envision it. If it comes about, the legal experts will have to hammer out the constitutional implications, while the government will have to deal with the public ones," he said.

Weiss stressed that the Knesset has already approved the Oslo agreement, of which Oslo 2 is "a branching out. The cabinet could well have decided not even to present Oslo 2 for Knesset approval, on the basis of its approval of Oslo 1."

He noted that if it appears that the coalition will not have the required majority, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin may conclude that he cannot continue and reach agreement for early elections with the Likud. Another possibility might be to amend the agreement and bring it for Knesset approval again.

OSLO 2

for the release of convicted terrorists with blood on their hands."

Interior Minister Ehud Barak described the agreement as "the child of Oslo 1, the grandchild of the Madrid Conference, and the great grandchild of Camp David."

But Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer stressed that "this is a complete departure from what went before. The dream of Greater Israel is dead and buried forever. We will no longer rule another people. The occupation is over. A new chapter in Israel's history is now opening."

Clinton will hold separate one-on-one meetings this morning with Rabin and Arafat, and tomorrow with Mubarak and Hussein. He will also host a working luncheon with the four following the signing.

King Hussein yesterday praised the accord, saying it gave "special impetus" to the peace process.

"It gives us the feeling that the peace camp is determined to keep going, to achieve a comprehensive peace in the region," he said.

High Court: Signing can go on

THE High Court of Justice yesterday threw out a petition by Likud MK Dov Shilansky, who demanded that the government first bring Oslo 2 before the Knesset before signing it.

Justices Theodor Or and Eliahu Mazza argued that the government is not obligated to bring diplomatic accords to the Knesset before they are signed.

Shilansky had argued that it is unimaginable that so important an agreement would be signed without the Knesset approval. (Itm)

(Continued from Page 1)

Shohat reportedly urged the ministers not to tinker with details because "this is a take it or leave it situation. There is no point in harping any particular aspect of the agreement, because clearly there is nothing here which can be changed."

Rabin and Peres showered each other with compliments and stated that "never in history was there such cooperation between a prime minister and a foreign minister."

Foreign Ministry legal adviser Yoel Singer and OC Planning Branch Maj.-Gen. Uzi Dayan and OC Central Command Maj.-Gen. Ilan Biran took part in the meeting.

In explaining his abstention, Shetreet said, "I feel that the Israeli negotiators did not stand their ground firmly enough and came away with less than they could have. They did not have their goals defined clearly enough and gave in on too many points, including the Jewish holy places."

Segov also complained that "there were no defined end objectives before the negotiators." He also said he "could not vote

Ross: Signing will push donors to improve PA cash flow

HILLEL KUTTLER
WASHINGTON

TODAY'S Oslo 2 signing ceremony in Washington will provide the impetus to pressure donor countries to improve the flow of pledges to the Palestinian Authority, US special Middle East peace process coordinator Dennis Ross said yesterday.

Ministers representing the countries comprising the ad-hoc liaison committee of donors to the Palestinian cause will meet after the signing today at the State Department to discuss improving disbursement of aid to the PA.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and PA Economics Minister Ahmed Oreia will make presentations to the gathering, as well as to the newly founded US-Israeli-Palestinian economic development panel that will convene for the first time tomorrow morning. Dennis Ross said the donors gathering is not meant to raise funds beyond the \$2.4 billion that was pledged two years ago, which he called "sufficient."

"The problem has not been the pledging. The problem has been the delivery," he said.

Tomorrow, Rabin will meet with King Hussein and then with several congressional leaders before heading to New York for Shabbat. Rabin will also meet tonight with Mubarak at the official US government guest residence

Blair House. However, no meetings are scheduled here between Rabin and Arafat.

Asked whether the agreement is likely to encourage or deter Palestinian terrorism against Israelis, Ross acknowledged that while "one can't predict these kinds of things, what one hopes for is that the Israeli security capabilities and Palestinian security capabilities can choke off these kinds of acts that... have no purpose except to try to destroy peace."

Syrian, Lebanese and Gulf officials will attend today's events, Ross said.

Following Clinton's meeting with Arafat and then with Rabin, the five leaders will assemble for more than an hour to discuss how to "expand the process of peace" and "what can be done at an economic level among the parties," Ross said. They will then proceed to the Green Room where maps attached to the agreement will be signed.

In a briefing for reporters, Ross said the bringing together of Rabin, Hussein, Mubarak and Arafat will be a "remarkable gathering" that "demonstrates not only support for what has been done, but also a kind of recognition of the significance of it."

TA woman killed by bus

A TEL AVIV woman was killed after being hit by a bus yesterday. Patricia Ann Baker, 50, a new immigrant from England, was struck as she was crossing Derech Pelah Tikva at a crosswalk.

Baker crossed a lane marked "public transportation only" when she was hit, and died on the scene. The driver, 40, of Be'er Brak, was held for questioning. (Itm)

The Israel Cancer Association announces in deep sorrow the passing of our friend and supporter
JOANNE TOOR CUMMINGS
Suzy Eban — President
Prof. N. Trainin — Chairman

TEL AVIV UNIVERSITY deeply mourns the passing of
RUBIN BIRD
a devoted friend of the University, and extends condolences to the bereaved family

With great sorrow we announce the passing of
LENI WEISZ - KAUFMANN
The funeral will take place at the Savoyon Cemetery on Thursday, September 28, at 3:30 p.m.
Rini and Shimon Shalish
Joke (Yona) and Shalom Weiss
Chaja and Moshe Lehrer
grandchildren and great-grandchildren

The American Bar Association regrets to announce the death of
Adv. AVIGDOR YARKONI
The funeral has already taken place.

Ezra Nashim / Sarah Herzog Memorial Hospital extends condolences to
Lily Silver
on the passing of her sister
GOLDIE JACKSON
in Toronto.

The Chairman, Executive and Staff of the S.A.Z.F. (ISRAEL) mourn the passing of
LOU GRILLER
Heartfelt condolences to our colleagues Renee and Susan and all the family.

مكتبة الامم المتحدة

Tit-Bayit operates on high octane gasoline heated to extremely high temperatures. Environment Ministry officials are also investigating the blast. (Itim)

Israel was sixth from the bottom in the number of road deaths per kilometer of highway, and had fewer deaths per kilometer than such countries as France, Belgium, Italy, and Australia.

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Bosnian peace accord faces hurdles

NEW YORK (AP) — Bosnia's factions have agreed on a formula for sharing power once the war ends, but major hurdles remain — there's still no cease-fire and they disagree on the role of the central government.

"There is no guarantee of success, but today's agreement moves us closer to the ultimate goal of a genuine peace," President Clinton said in announcing the results of Tuesday's meeting in New York.

However, Bosnia's prime minister optimistically predicted the agreement could lead to an end to the war within weeks.

"If the international community keeps this firm position, if it does not back down, does not get tricked by the regime in Belgrade — they are experts in this — I would venture to say we can have peace in weeks," Haris Silajdzic told reporters in Sarajevo yesterday.

The accord by the foreign ministers of Bosnia, Croatia and Serb-dominated Yugoslavia builds on a breakthrough achieved in Geneva on September 8. That agreement kept Bosnia's external borders intact while dividing the state internally between the Moslem-Croat federation and the Bosnian Serb republic.

Bosnian Serb nationalists, who rebelled in April 1992 with hopes of uniting their holdings with neighboring Serbia, oppose a strong central authority. Moslems, who insist on keeping Bosnia united, want to make the government as powerful as possible.

Tuesday's agreement obliges the two entities to create a joint government consisting of a presidency, parliament and constitutional court. Those institutions would be established after general elections to be held once conditions improve sufficiently to guarantee a fair ballot.

Left undecided was how many people would make up the collective presidency. As in the case of the parliament, two-thirds would be elected from the Croat-Moslem federation and the remainder from Serb territory.

The power-sharing formula is enormously complex. Presidential decisions would be taken by majority vote, but if one-third of the group disagrees and declares it to be "destructive of a vital interest" it would be referred to that entity's parliament. If two-thirds of the members of that entity's parliament voted against the action, it would not take effect.

"Psychologically, probably the most important thing is that the warring parties are meeting together," US Secretary of State Warren Christopher said.

"I think the correlation of forces is such that we have a chance for a cease-fire and now we have to work very hard to get one. We have to keep up the momentum," he said on NBC-TV's Today show.

Battlefields in Bosnia were generally quiet yesterday, and the media was optimistic.

"Bosnia Closer to Peace," trumpeted the front-page headline of the Oslobođenje daily in Sarajevo.



Two elderly women move past a French UN soldier in Sarajevo yesterday. The city remained relatively quiet as warring factions were talking peace.

CHICAGO (AP) — Chicago's pitching no-hitter was broken by Ben Mondak's home run in the eighth inning.

Eric I. the both the first game in West, h...

Russian coast guard fires on unmarked boat

MOSCOW (Reuters) — Russia said yesterday its coast guard opened fire on an unmarked boat poaching in Russia's far eastern territorial waters and wounded the captain.

Lieutenant-General Vitaly Sedikh, who commands border forces in the Pacific region, toldITAR-TASS news agency 10 boats had been detected poaching to the south of Sakhalin Island. They did not react to warning signals or to shots fired in the air.

The incident appeared to be the same as one reported by Tokyo, where the Foreign Ministry said Russian coast guard vessels opened fire on two Japanese fishing boats in waters north of Japan's northern island of Hokkaido.

Sedikh said his vessel fired one shot at one boat, damaging the craft and wounding the captain. The boat had been detained and was being towed to the Sakhalin port of Nevelsk.

He said the wounded captain had been flown to a military hospital by helicopter. Reinforce-

Ciller: Opposition rejected coalition offer

ANKARA (Reuters) — Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller said yesterday the opposition Motherland Party's (ANAP) leader Mesut Yilmaz had not accepted her conditions for forming a conservative coalition government.

Ciller told reporters that Yilmaz, who announced earlier he had agreed to her four terms, had not been sincere in his acceptance. Yilmaz said earlier he had accepted Ciller's terms and set some of his own. These included the inclusion in a coalition protocol of early June elections and giving ANAP eight cabinet posts, including the foreign ministry, finance and justice ministries and control over the economy.

Ciller set out four conditions — which she said were not negotiable — for a coalition with her conservative True Path Party (DYP), including a demand that Yilmaz take a leading position in any alliance.

She also proposed that elections could be held next June, ahead of scheduled polls in October 1996, that the government not be just a stop-gap measure and that the number of cabinet seats shared out reflect parliamentary strength.

Court condemns Britain in IRA Gibraltar killing

STRASBOURG (AP) — British commandos used excessive force in the 1988 killings of three IRA members in Gibraltar, the European Court of Human Rights said yesterday.

However, the court dismissed a compensation claim by the victim's relatives, saying the three had been planning to plant a bomb in the British colony on the southern tip of Spain.

British commandos shot the three Irish Republican Army suspects repeatedly and at close range as they were walking along a Gibraltar street on March 6, 1988. Critics said they were following a British government "shoot to kill" policy aimed at the IRA.

The government denied such a policy existed and said the suspects were planning to detonate a car bomb, but no weapons or bomb detonators were found on the bodies of Sean Savage, Mairead Farrell or Daniel McCann.

The court ruled yesterday the authorities had had prior warning of the impending terrorist action and had "ample" opportunity to plan their reaction, foil the attack and arrest the suspects.

"The court was not persuaded that the killing of the three terrorists constituted a use of force which was no more than absolutely necessary," the judges said.

"The court accepted that the soldiers honestly believed, in the light of the information that they had been given that it was necessary to shoot the suspects in order to prevent them from detonating a bomb and causing serious loss of life," the judgment said.

But it went on to say that "in the court's view, insufficient allowances appear to have been made for other assumptions."

It said Britain violated an article of the Human Rights Convention which guarantees the right to life.

The European Court of Human Rights is part of the Council of Europe, which was founded to promote human rights and democracy in Europe. Its decision is non-binding on member countries, although they carry moral weight.

Yesterday's decision overturns a decision last year by the Commission on Human Rights, which advises the court. The commission ruled that the shootings were "absolutely necessary for the legitimate aim of the defense of others from unlawful violence."

Deputy Prime Minister Michael Heseltine said Britain would not review its security policy and procedures in light of the court's decision.

"We shall do nothing. We will pursue our right to fight terrorism, to protect innocent people, wherever we have jurisdiction. And we will not be swayed or deterred in any way by this ludicrous decision of the court."

The leader of the IRA's political allies called for an independent international judicial investigation into all "disputed killings" by British forces.

NATO sets 'nuclear' conditions for membership

JONATHAN CLAYTON BRUSSELS

NATO says plans to extend alliance membership to its former Warsaw Pact enemies must include the right to station tactical nuclear weapons and troops on the territory of new members in the event of conflict.

A 30-page alliance study on how to enlarge the most powerful military alliance ever created says new members have to embrace fully the concept of nuclear deterrence at the heart of alliance defense strategy.

"The supreme guarantee of the security of the allies is provided by the strategic nuclear forces of the alliance. New allies will share the benefits and responsibilities from this in the same way as other allies," the study states.

The study stresses the need for good relations with Russia, but repeats Moscow will have no veto on the matter. It states enlarge-

ment will enhance European security by underpinning the new democracies.

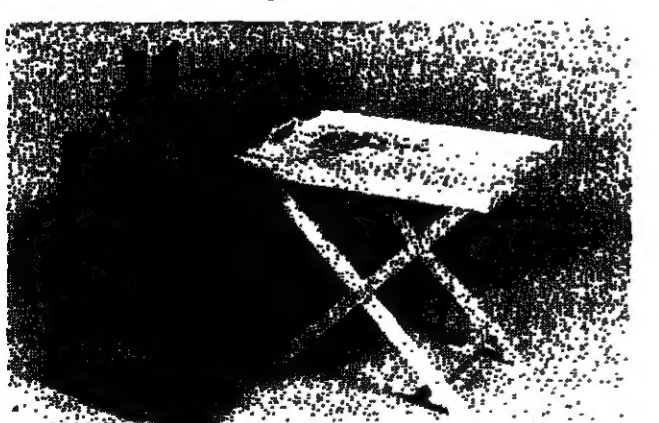
The study, due to be unveiled by NATO Secretary General Willy Claes today, rules out any form of "second tier" membership of the alliance.

"New members will be expected to support the concept of deterrence and the essential alliance strategy of war prevention," it says, adding:

"It is important for NATO's force structure that other Allies' forces can be deployed, when and if appropriate on the territory of new members."

The study, which could lead to the biggest shake-up of the alliance since its creation in 1949, mentions no countries nor any time frame, but does not rule out more than one wave of expansion.

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הוצאת האל

Bosnian hero comes home after long struggle

The leader of Bosnia's Jews stayed to help his community during three years of brutal war. David Isaacson reports

ACCORDING to the Talmud, every Jew is responsible for his fellow Jews. But in times of great danger, only a hero would repeatedly risk his life and suffer years of deprivation in order to help others. One such figure, though he hates the label "hero," is 44-year-old Ivan Ceresnjes.

For more than three years, Ceresnjes, chairman of Bosnian Jewry and an architect by profession, passed up opportunities to leave besieged Sarajevo, preferring to remain, to look after the community. In "the most critical months of 1993," Ceresnjes enjoyed greater freedom of movement than most of his compatriots, thanks to the help of the foreign press. In appointing him a foreign correspondent, *The Jerusalem Post* for example enabled him to travel on behalf of the community.

Of the Jewish casualties, there have to date been seven deaths, about two dozen wounded and of course widespread damage to property.

Exhausted and despairing, Ceresnjes recently immigrated, joining his wife Milka (44), who works part-time for the WJC, and sons Alexander (16), Andrei (14) and Ivan (12), who all left for Jerusalem in August 1992.

Not that the diffident, soft-spoken Ceresnjes has given up the struggle to care for Sarajevo's 491 Jews, and the 500 in Bosnia's five smaller communities. Despite, or because of, his pessimism about Bosnia's future, he plans to return to continue his work "until all those who want to leave, can do so."

Bosnian law forbids the emigration of men of draft age (18 to 60), of those in professions such as medicine, "and other specialists." Getting people out has therefore required great ingenuity. Ceresnjes is deeply grateful to the World Jewish

Congress for its political support, and to the Jewish Agency, not only for its constant presence in Sarajevo, but for its work in absorbing Bosnian newcomers here.

"[The Bosnian refugees] are different from other immigrants," he says. "They arrive with literally nothing other than plastic bags."

Today the Sarajevo community is decimated. "When the war started, there were 1,300 Jews in Sarajevo," Ceresnjes recalls. "We organized 11 evacuations" in the course of which 800 Jewish refugees, including 200 children, came to this country. "Little by little they were joined by their parents, and now most of the families here are complete."

The evacuations also took 150 mainly elderly refugees to Serbia and Croatia, 100 to the UK, a similar number to Spain, and a few to Canada, Switzerland and Austria.

Since the civil war began, some 400 Sarajevo Jews have "come out" as Jews. "We check them out with regard to alibi, but when it comes to aid, we don't care whether they're Jewish or not," says Ceresnjes. Referring to the bitter experiences of the Holocaust, he sympathizes with those who sought to conceal their Jewishness from officials making lists: "I respect their fear, but also their needs."

Many doors appear to have been opened as a result of the Jewish community's reputation for distributing its aid—received primarily from the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee and the London-based World Jewish Relief—on a non-sectarian basis. Ceresnjes is especially happy about the way Diaspora fundraisers such as WJR's Eli Benson "always treated us as partners, not beneficiaries." Zionist philanthro-



Ivan Ceresnjes plans to continue working until all Bosnian Jews who want to leave can do so. (Richard Lobell)

pists take note.

Supported by this partnership, the Sarajevo community's charity, La Benevolencia, set up food kitchens, pharmacies and communications with the outside world for the whole city, thereby becoming "famous throughout Bosnia." Ceresnjes notes that this is a rare occasion in history where local Jews "are seen not as targets but as... saviors." He does not like the word, but agrees that the Jews are like "saviors."

On his own long, arduous escape—a dangerous journey in which a 15-km. drive could take six hours—across Mount Igman and through Croatia, Ceresnjes found that his fame preceded him. At one of numerous checkpoints, at which a wrong answer could have terrifying consequences, a "serious-looking" commander of the Bosnian border police surprised him with the words "It's a pleasure to meet you."

But such civility is a rarity in

Bosnia. In Sarajevo alone, the 1992 population of 650,000 is now down to less than 250,000. In 41 months, 15,000 Sarajevoans, including 1,500 children, have been killed by shells and snipers. And 1,500 are missing limbs. "It's a city of invalids," Ceresnjes says sadly. Hard as he tries, Ceresnjes can't see any light at the end of Bosnia's terrible tunnel.

"People call me 'the Dark Prophet' but I just don't see any bright colors. I doubt that the combatants have the goodwill needed to end the war. As a friend of mine said, 'There is no force that can end the war by force, and no mind that can divide the country in a way that will satisfy everyone.'"

Neither is he optimistic about the NATO air-strikes on the Bosnian Serbs, which are "three years late and [by political necessity] very limited."

Anxious to maintain the Jewish community's neutrality, Ceresnjes is reluctant to either discuss the subterfuge going on behind the scenes or to apportion blame for the tragedy: "A lot of dirty work has been done and we need time to know who did what. Only in the future, when the history of the war is recorded, will things become clearer."

He compares the situation to the last 10 days of World War II, when hundreds of thousands of Yugoslav civilians were massacred, though the details came to light only recently.

Nine in every ten of Yugoslavia's Jews perished in the Holocaust. Prior to that there was "no antisemitism" in the country, and after the war, under Tito, "antisemitism was prohibited, even after 1967 when Yugoslavia broke off ties with Israel." Ceresnjes remembers how, in the days of the Iron Curtain, Tito met frequently with WJC leader Nahum Goldman, and Yugoslavia served as an escape route for East Europe's Jews.

Now Ceresnjes feels that the time has come to rejoin his family and make up for the years in which they've been parted. He has been here many times before, first as a youth leader, and more recently to visit his wife and sons. "In the end, I came home," he says.



Feraud injected glaring prints into pure classicism. These are sometimes too bright, and sometimes too gross.

Louis Feraud in retrospect

FLAIR

GREER FAY CASHMAN

ANYONE expecting to find something innovative in the showing of the Louis Feraud fall/winter collection was sadly disappointed. Sponsored by Silhouette, which represents Louis Feraud in Israel, the benefit show at the Tel Aviv Hilton in aid of Shma, the association for the hearing impaired, could frankly be summed up in four words. Quality, yes. Novelty, no.

To those familiar with Feraud's fashion signature, the collection was much more in the nature of a retrospective exhibition than a couture update.

Yes, it is very difficult to inject something refreshingly different into lines reflecting pure classicism, but the only effort Feraud seemed to have made in this direction was via some glaring prints, which were too bright, too busy and in some cases, too gross.

But for a younger generation which may be unfamiliar with Feraud, the hour-glass silhouettes, the smart, single- and double-breasted jackets frequently framed in contrasting piping, the three-quarter-length swaggy coats and the reversible quilted cocoon coats were an exciting change from the loose, flowing patchworks which were so prevalent here throughout the summer.

Feraud's hemlines on generally narrow skirts, tend to hover just above the knee, but occasionally move a little higher or lower.

His three-piece ensembles more frequently include shawls or car coats than vests; and his palette, though dominated by hot pinks, reds and various shades of gray, offers a rainbow of choices.

Although much of the collection exploits a single theme in a series of different color plays, a closer look reveals that Feraud has gone for the jugular. The

greatest sense of variety is in his necklines with collarless, mandarin, shawl-collared, funnel-necked, scarf-necked and both wide- and narrow-lapelled necklines in day wear; and low-cut pear-shaped, heart-shaped, bateau and moderate-to-plunging vees for evening wear. The evening skirts are also much fuller.

Animal-rights groups appear to have lost their battle with the fashion world. Feraud is one of many designers who this season is using genuine furs and leathers.

As for price, a Louis Feraud outfit represents for many people more than a month's salary. Starting prices are NIS 2,500 for jackets, NIS 850 for skirts, NIS 1,200 for pants, NIS 3,500 for dresses and NIS 3,500 for coats.

Yes, a designer label does not come cheap, and there are still people who are more status-conscious than taste-conscious.

Only last week, I was charmed by a Guy Laroche dress in one of the better-known boutiques. "It's not your size," sniffed the saleswoman as she whipped the garment out of my grasp. "We have a dress in your size by the same designer," she said, producing something which was quite frankly hideous. "But I'm not buying the designer," I retorted. "I'm buying a dress—and this is not it."

The withering look she gave me translated into a single word: Peasant!

But today, there is almost no such thing as designer exclusivity. Several concepts associated with Feraud, for instance, have been emulated by Escada, Laurel and Cerruti as well as other top-line fashion houses. Which all goes to show that there really is nothing new under the sun, and that only suckers pay top dollar for something that has so many look-alikes that it can hardly be original.

New malls pulling couch potatoes outside

FLIP off that big-screen TV and pull yourself out of that reclining chair. Corporate America has new plans for leisure time.

They want Americans out of the house and back into the malls. And to make sure that they leave that pricey home entertainment center behind, developers are looking toward reinventing a staple of suburban life—the shopping center.

With nearly 1.86 square meters of retail space for every American, developers have little choice but to abandon their cookie-cutter approach to malls. The new industry buzzwords are "urban entertainment centers" and "location-based entertainment"—places where consumers can watch movies on giant 3-D screens, test their mettle in high-tech virtual-reality arcades and dine in restaurants where entertainment is as important as the menu.

Traditional malls use department and specialty stores, along with a smattering of restaurants and small movie complexes, to lure consumers who have time and money on their hands.

But the new centers will use massive movie complexes to draw crowds—the way anchor department stores do now, hoping they will stick around to eat, shop and play.

"These are places where people go to see what the hell's going on," said industry consultant Harrison Price in Los

Angeles. "It's going to be an impulse thing... The secret will be plugging in enough stuff so people will say 'I've got to go there.'"

The new centers are largely a response to "cocooning" consumers with wide-screen TVs, state-of-the-art sound systems and increasingly sophisticated electronic games.

"There's been a fundamental change in the way that we use our leisure time," said Michael Rubin, a Philadelphia-based entertainment industry consultant. "The challenge is to pull people away from what's become an at-home [entertainment] industry."

Entertainment industry executives have long known their main competition. "I've always said that our biggest opponent isn't another company," said Edwards Theater chairman James Edwards Sr., 88, who saw his first "flicker" in 1910 in a Pasadena, California, storefront. "It's the home. We compete against the home."

Press a developer to explain where Americans will be playing in the future and they point to CityWalk in Universal City in Los Angeles, the Shops at the Forum at Caesar's Palace in Las Vegas, and the massive Mall of America near Minneapolis.

The three attractions are tailored to meet growing consumer demand for a relatively safe place to enjoy themselves, although the enhanced security that helps

create the illusion of a shopping utopia can't always keep out crime and other real-world problems.

CityWalk's premise is simple: Cluster shops, restaurants, entertainment venues and movie theaters near a tourist attraction, in this case Universal Studios, so consumers won't have to drive from place to place.

The Forum Shops offer a veritable who's who of trendy stores and eateries set in a make-believe world of moving statues and a lighting scheme that gives the illusion of walking through ancient Rome. It encourages free-spending gamblers and their families to shop and gawk—without leaving the grounds.

The Mall of America, a one-of-a-kind attraction, houses hundreds of stores, dozens of restaurants and an indoor amusement park complete with a roller coaster and a Camp Snoopy for children.

Developers are betting that they can use some of the building blocks from those attractions to create the mall of tomorrow and bolster flagging consumer interest in existing centers.

Look for more entertainment, especially high-tech, computer-driven arcades where visitors can fight demons from the 31st century or speed around "virtual" tracks in computer-controlled cars that bump and grind to create the ultimate racing experience.

Food also will be emphasized, mainly to

keep consumers from zooming off somewhere else for dinner. But don't look for mundane hamburger stands.

Developers are increasingly turning to "signature" restaurants where music, memorabilia and atmosphere are as important as the menu. Some of the new operators include Dive Restaurants, with its high-tech submarine theme, Country Star Restaurants, which offers a glimpse into the lives of leading country music performers, and the Rainforest Cafe in the Mall of America, where diners are surrounded by waterfalls, lush vegetation and exotic birds.

Southern California will get its first mall-based urban entertainment center in November with the Irvine Entertainment Center, a \$50 million, Moroccan-themed attraction.

The center will feature a 21-screen movie complex, which will house the West Coast's first 3D sight-and-sound Imax theater and four of the largest traditional movie screens in the US, along with a 30-meter-long snack bar.

Electronic games giant Sega Enterprises Ltd. is building a 1,400-sq.-m. virtual-reality arcade on the premises. It evidently will be patterned on the company's new two-story arcade in the Luxor Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas, where 6,000 customers a day flock to its 200 high-tech attractions.

(Washington Post)

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Another Washington ceremony

THE purpose of today's White House ceremony is clear. The Clinton administration, spearheading the drive to raise funds for the Palestinian Authority, is eager to make the signing of Oslo 2 appear like a major milestone in the peace process and a confirmation of its irreversibility. Both the US Congress and the donor countries need assurances that the PA is a going concern, that the establishment of a Palestinian state with Israel's blessings is a certainty, and that the "process" is on its way to a happy ending of stability and prosperity.

There are other aims, too. Washington hopes that the White House gathering of Arab leaders who are certified members of the Middle East "peace club" - President Hosni Mubarak, King Hussein and Yasser Arafat - will remind others, particularly Syria's dictator Hafez Assad, of all the benefits of pax Americana. The recent cancellation of Jordan's debt to the US, the likely sale of F-16s to Amman, and the grants to the PA are examples of such benefits.

Nor can the spectacle hurt President Bill Clinton's prospects in the coming election year. The American electorate may be preoccupied with domestic concerns, and - as former president George Bush discovered - foreign successes do not always translate to ballot victories.

But the appearance as peacemaker on the world stage can only enhance the president's leadership image.

The problem for Israel in this American production is that the government's rush to sign at the White House has made a mockery of democratic procedures. Even the cabinet could do no more than give a rubber stamp to a contract about which it knows little. Having received the 400-page document the night before, its members approved it on faith, with scant understanding of its contents.

The humiliation of the Knesset next week will be even more pronounced. Only after the agreement is signed by the prime minister on the nation's behalf and becomes a fait accompli will the legislative body be asked to debate and approve it. If nothing else, the Knesset should learn from this humbling that procedures for the approval of treaties should be set in law.

If the agreement works and "Oslo" becomes synonymous with true and lasting peace, the current complaints about democratic procedures will seem like petty quibbles. But if "Oslo" proves to be a step toward exacerbated strife and more bloodshed, the pleas of ignorance by those who now blindly approve it will sound hollow indeed.

Papering over the cracks

THE draft peace agreement for Bosnia may look like a step in the right direction, but it is not clear if the factions are even facing in the same direction. The Bosnian Muslims hailed the accord as guaranteeing the integrity of Bosnia, while the Serbs applauded it for recognizing the separate existence of Republika Srpska.

This is scarcely an unknown phenomenon - indeed it appears the participants in similar agreements around the world simply borrow convenient interpretations from one another. The Chechens say their peace accord with Russia guarantees their independence, the IRA says it is negotiating to remove Britain from Ireland, the Palestinians say the Oslo accords are about a Palestinian state, Turkish Cypriots say a UN federal agreement recognizes their puppet state. In virtually all cases the opposing parties say the agreements are about such thing. And in all cases the conflicts remain seriously unresolved despite media fanfare about breakthroughs, resolutions and solutions.

The main difference in Bosnia is that a major war is still raging, and getting it stopped is a top priority. For that reason, and because this is a war that could turn into an international conflagration, the new draft agreement of principles on the future of the country will have value if it leads to an early cease-fire that holds. Beyond that, there is little that can be expected of it - like most paper agreements, it is of more use in covering cracks than building bridges.

It may be unfair to question the goodwill of the international negotiators involved in this latest attempt to put the Humpty Dumpty of former Yugoslavia together again, but there has to be a lingering impression that with leadership elections looming in the United States and Russia, the sense of urgency is somewhat skewed. President Clinton will undoubtedly want to take

an apparent foreign policy success on his campaign trail, while Russian democrats fear that more NATO bombing of the Bosnian Serbs will play into the hands of Vladimir Zhirinovskiy and the ultra-nationalist camp.

What the agreement proposes is the conversion of Bosnia-Herzegovina into Bosnia-Herzegovina-Srpska - in other words a loosely-connected Muslim-Croat-Serb entity. This would seem to be the square one from which everyone started. The fact that for tactical reasons the Muslims and Croats of Bosnia are allies now is no guarantee that they will remain allies. If the Serbs continue to emphasize the Republika Srpska they think they have won, it will not be long before the Croats will be talking of their Republic of Herzegovina. That makes wishful thinking of Bosnian Prime Minister Haris Silajdzic's contention that the agreement gives the future state a superstructure and a minimum of institutions - parliament, presidency, cabinet - for survival.

It may be unfortunate, but true, that the Muslims of Bosnia are being set up as ultimate losers, hemmed in by two antagonistic Christian factions, the Catholic Croats and Orthodox Serbs, who have their own thinly disguised agenda for a two-way split of Bosnia. Few have noticed that amid all the trappings of three-way federated statehood in the new agreement, its underlying structure defines a Bosnia that is now divided 50-50 between the Serbs and the Muslim-Croat alliance. That looks remarkably similar to the map Croat President Franjo Tudjman drew on the back of a London restaurant menu earlier this year, and which Serbs and Croats vehemently denied was evidence of a secret understanding. It could be that the menu, rather than this week's agreement, gives the true indication of what is really cooking in the troubled Balkans.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

TRAMPLING THE RIGHT OF PROTEST

Sir, - Police Minister Moshe Shalal's remark that Zo Artzeanu calls for rebellion and the attorney-general's association of "continued disturbances" with anarchy and a threat to democracy (August 28 and 29) are patent nonsense.

There is no segment of the protest movement conspiring against the government. Rather, they call for passive resistance and eschew violence. Shalal's words and Ben Yair's insinuations smack of fear, not for the welfare of the state, but a government's fear for its ministerial seats. Alarm is motivating a new witch-hunt. Blocking streets is a violation of the law and a concerned government can prosecute the offenders. But calling up the specters of revolt and anarchy is a tactic designed to turn the political center against the opposition and raise support for the government. It also serves to intimidate protesters by threatening investigation, use of the

police and even the General Security Service.

The Labor Party is well aware of public disaffection. Polls consistently show Labor losing the Prime Minister's Office in the next election and, in a recent poll, 73 percent of Israeli Jews supported a referendum before implementation of stage 2 of the Oslo accords.

This is the voice of the center, which voted in '92 for a moderate Rabin and has become disenchanted with a government captured by the extreme left. With each new terrorist bombing, there is a greater loss of confidence and larger demonstrations.

Stung by growing public opposition to the accords with the PLO and outrage over terrorist atrocities, the government seeks to trample the right of protest. In the process, it searches for conspiracy and sanctions police violence.

Jerusalem.

SECURITY ON BUSES

Sir, - In his article of August 23, "Let's talk tactics," David Morris states that guards should be placed on our city buses, that they would be responsible for checking all bags and would be entitled to body-search anyone who appeared suspicious.

Further on, he writes that, since we are used to searches in department stores, the Western Wall, etc., "surely no reasonable citizen would object to similar treatment on or before boarding a bus?"

Considering myself a "reasonable citizen," I cannot fathom myself being thought a suspicious person and then body-searched by a male guard. There are many other citizens - religious or not - who for modesty reasons would concur. Does this mean that we would need two guards per bus - one male and one female?

I would also like to know if Mr. Morris has taken a bus lately. People returning from the city are inundated with packages, food from the market, etc. When dozens of people are waiting to board a bus during rush hour and are crowding to get in and be seated, is it really feasible that one guard with a possible entrance at the back of the bus can really do his job? And what about the possibility of a suicide bomber blowing himself up as he steps up to the guard to be checked? With people crowded behind him and a bus load of people in front of him, what could that guard possibly prevent?

Jerusalem.

TAMAR FELD

FUNDS FOR THE PA

Sir, - MK General (res.) Ori Orr has told US senators that the government of Israel opposes the Congressional initiative to discontinue funds for the Palestine Authority unless the PA/PLO changes its charter and deals with terror within six months. Given that the government surely wants the PA/PLO to change its charter and to deal with terror, we can only guess why the objection. Two possibilities come to mind. The government knows that the conditions set by Congress will not be met

and that Congress will have no hesitation to follow through with the cut-off of funds. This flies in the face of Israeli government policy to allow the PA/PLO to say one thing and do the opposite.

Or perhaps the government objects to the six-month deadline. I expect they would rather have some cosmetic changes closer to election time in order to boost chances for their own survival.

Eliazar.

ISRAEL PICKHOLTZ



The phone never rang

A few months before the drama of the hijacked Iranian plane that landed at the Uvda air base near Eilat last week, Mickey Gurdus received a surprise phone call from the Israeli Police.

"The FBI has requested a copy of the recordings you made of the voices of terrorists communicating to the outside world when three men were brutally tortured to death aboard a Kuwaiti aircraft in November 1984."

Gurdus, a renowned recorder of radio and TV broadcasts in the Middle East, was only too happy to oblige.

The incident in question occurred after Iranian secret service agents disguised as "terrorists" hijacked the Kuwaiti plane before forcing it to land in Teheran. They demanded that three Iranian terrorists imprisoned in Kuwait be released. To press home their threats, they murdered three American passengers.

In a cruel, cynical use of microphones, the Iranians broadcast to the world the heart-wrenching and blood-curdling cries of pain emitted by the tortured, dying men. Despite this, however, the US authorities didn't budge. The terrorists' demands were rejected.

There was no explanation given of why the FBI suddenly wanted copies of Gurdus's tapes. But there are three clues to their behavior.

One is that Americans have long memories. They seek justice for the slayers of their citizens no matter where they died, or how long after the event.

Another clue lies in the ongoing interrogation of Saddam Hussein's relatives who recently defected to Jordan. Clearly they know full well the identities of the agents of Ali Fallahian, Iranian government minister and mastermind of "special operations," who killed the Americans at Teheran airport. The defectors were only too happy, among other things, to reveal what they knew about the killers' identities.

None of this was of any solace to Ron Arad's mother Batya, who made an anguished and bitter appeal to Prime Minister Rabin not to release the Iranian plane until Teheran produced her son, or, at the very least, information about him.

The government did not heed her pleas. Little wonder, then, that she declared: "I feel betrayed by our government." Added Ron's brother Chen with barely controlled rage: "It's time that those who sent Ron on his mission took the trouble to bring him back."

There were many inspired leaks to the pliant Hebrew press and TV concerning Rabin's cool and careful handling of the hijacking affair. But neither Batya Arad nor her family know just how callously and cynically they have been betrayed.

THE IRONY is that very little thought appears to have been given to the question of how to handle the hijacked plane after it landed in Israel.

As a senior intelligence source put it to us: "So busy were Rabin and Peres trying desperately to appease Arafat and his negotiators in a rush to sign the Oslo 2 agreement in Washington today, that the Iranian plane got scant attention. The affair was bungled and ill-thought-out from beginning to end." In fact, it was a hot potato that the government wanted to get rid of as fast as possible, so as not to upset the Moslem world.

We can reveal that appeals were made to both the offices of President Weizman and the prime minister, urging them to seek the ad-

URI DAN
DENNIS EISENBERG

vice of a man in Israel who is recognized, both here and abroad, as an international authority on Iranian affairs.

Said this expert, after the plane landed: "A golden opportunity has fallen into Israeli hands, literally out of the sky. Don't let the Iranians take the initiative. Put them on the defensive. Drive them into a corner."

The tactics the expert recommended were simple and decisive. Women and children would imme-

He is an expert on the Iranians. He was ready to tell Rabin how to use the hijack affair to get Ron Arad back. But he wasn't consulted.

diately be handed over to the Red Cross, together with any sick male passengers. The remaining men would be lodged in comfortable quarters. It would be announced to the world that these were not hostages. The press and TV crews would be invited to speak to them. The world would see that they were free, and not chained in prison.

An immediate, full-scale international organized information campaign would have to be launched. The facts of how Arad was shot down in Lebanon in 1986 would have to be broadcast; how, instead of being treated as a prisoner of war, he was sold to the Iranians for hard cash by a Hizbullah chieftain named Mustafa Dirani.

"Has the defense minister forgotten that he risked the lives of a

an Israeli commando team in a daring and risky operation to pluck Dirani out of his Lebanese village home and bring him to Israel for interrogation on the subject of Ron?" asked the expert.

Dirani should be produced, he added, as part of the information drive to tell the world how high-ranking Iranian officials paid him in cash for Arad.

This expert has spent a lifetime studying the mindset of Iranian officials. He advised: Until the Iranians give us details of Arad's fate, hold onto the plane and their men." The Iranians, the expert believed, would have been forced to come up with information. And the Arad family would at least, and at last, have learned the truth.

We were informed that the expert was not consulted. He waited in vain for a single telephone call. Our intelligence source told us: "It is unbelievable - criminal - that no effort was made to use this man's expertise."

Chief of Staff Amnon Lipkin-Shahak remarked recently that "the Iranian authorities know what happened to Ron Arad." But this went unheeded as the government diverted all its energies to the agreement with Arafat.

One detail of the botched affair emerged when the hijacker was taken to court in Eilat. The translator brought in proved so inept that he had to be replaced by a more proficient one. With the vast array of government officials then in Eilat, this aspect should have been taken care of more efficiently.

As Rabin flies into Washington, he might learn from the FBI, who are still boiling over the murder of the three Americans in 1984, always to seek justice for every citizen's death.

The writers are authors of The Mossad: Secrets of the Israeli Secret Service and other books on the Middle East.

Bloody hands

YOSEF GOELL

ONE of the worst errors of judgment Yitzhak Rabin and Shimon Peres have made in recent years was their agreeing to the 1985 release of over 1,100 Palestinian terrorist prisoners identified with the extreme Jibril gang in exchange for three Israeli prisoners of war.

A significant number of those terrorists were subsequently involved in murderous attacks on Israelis. Many were also in the forefront of the intifada two years later.

At the time Peres was premier, and Rabin defense minister in the first Labor-Likud national unity government, Likud leader Yitzhak Shamir, foreign minister in that rotation government, also agreed to the sorry deal, something that has since been used in an attempt to excuse Peres's and Rabin's deadly mistake. Shamir's equally egregious misjudgment may be useful in scoring political points, but it in no way mitigates the mistake Peres and Rabin made.

As part of the Oslo 2 agreement concluded this week, Peres and Rabin have backed down from their previous declared opposition to releasing Palestinian terrorist prisoners "with blood on their hands." It may yet prove no less of a mistake than the 1985 swap.

Yesterday the members of the ministerial committee on prisoner release were trying to get President Weizman to commit himself to pardoning Palestinian women prisoners whose release is conditional on a presidential pardon (as opposed to a decision by the minister of defense) because they are residents of Israeli Jerusalem, and not of the territories.

On radio, committee member Yossi Sarid excused the freeing of these women "with blood on their hands," arguing that the extension of greater clemency to women is customary worldwide. Arafat was quoted as telling Peres at Taba that "Women are all saintly." (Of course, this never stopped him from sending his killers to murder Israeli women and children for over 25 years.)

Sarid chose to disregard the fact that in many modern terror organizations like Germany's Bader-

The retreat on the prisoner issue could prove just as dangerous as the 1985 Jibril swap

Meinhoff and America's Weathermen, the female terrorist has often been the deadliest of the species.

A MASSIVE prisoner release, even including proven killers, need not be unthinkable in all circumstances. Suppose, for example, it could be guaranteed to bring about a historic end to the conflict between us and the Palestinians, or was done to acknowledge the first palpable signs of a profound reconciliation between the two warring peoples. It could then be said to be a worthwhile price to pay, a risk worth taking.

One can argue in support of benefits that have accrued to Israel as a result of signing Oslo 1 two years ago. But to describe Arafat's and the Palestinians' behavior over these two years as "historic reconciliation" would be mind-boggling. Clearly, this isn't a final burying of the hatchet, but a hard-nosed trade-off of interests between Israel, led by a war-weary leadership, and a Palestinian side determined to continue the struggle with Israel after squeezing as much as it can out of the current leadership.

In the past two weeks, as a condition for the release of Palestinian prisoners, a number of ministers adopted postures insisting that Arafat and the Palestinian Authority hand over to Israel the accused killers of Israelis who have found refuge in Jericho and Gaza.

Yesterday, however, top government sources in the Justice Ministry and in our Taba negotiating team were quoted as saying that had Israel insisted on such an ultimatum condition, "the talks would have blown up."

Perhaps the fact is, our side blinked first. The same argument has been used to excuse every Israeli retreat, and the Palestinians will certainly continue to exploit it in the coming stages.

If the Rabin-Peres team hasn't called Arafat's bluff so far, there is good reason to fear they will fail to do so all down the line.

The writer comments on current affairs.



A Louisiana state road-stripping machine painted over this dead raccoon clearly in contravention of the law. Normally, dead animals are removed from the path of the paint sprayer, but the driver thought stopping the machine to move the carcass would create a traffic hazard.

مكتبة الامم المتحدة

He may not want to give up the secret

DEAR RUTHIE
RUTHIE BLUM

Dear Ruthie,

I'm 41, have been divorced five years and have two children. For the past year-and-a-half I've been seeing a married man. Though we don't go out together much in public, we do spend nearly every evening together.

I've grown to love him — beyond the infatuation stage. I have come to want to share more with him. Eight years ago, he and his wife decided to stay together in spite of their "dead" marriage. Though he loves me and admits that I am the best thing that has ever happened to him, he says that he needs more time to decide whether he is ready to make a commitment to me.

My fear is that he will never be ready to go through the upheaval that a divorce would entail.

As a result of this fear, I broke up with him two weeks ago. I know he has been miserable, as have I. But can I go back and always be waiting to see if he's now ready, and put up with a situation I find somewhat sordid? Do I believe that one day, by letting things develop naturally (as he puts it), he will want to have a closer relationship?

He is too honest to make false promises. Do you have any insights here, without knowing either of us?

Craving Commitment
Jerusalem

Dear CC,

One insight which comes to mind is that longing for someone unavailable is often interpreted (or misinterpreted) as love. No doubt each of you is experiencing intense emotions of desire, passion, even friendship for one another.

The question to ask yourself is whether all or any of these would withstand a public, viable relationship.

This man's hesitancy may be the result of his having contemplated this very question. Exchanging clandestine courtship for commitment is no small risk.

Free of the constraints of marriage, you are the one intent on extracting some kind of promise. Ironically, it could very well be you who ends up being disillusioned, in the event that you get what you're after.

Dear Ruthie,

My wife and I have lived in Israel for 13 years. Our parents and all of our siblings live in the US, and my wife has become "homesick" for them. She would like to return for "a year" to figure out if Israel was the right choice. She is tired of missing family weddings, birthday parties, etc. I fully agree with her, especially about being far away from elderly parents during the last years. On the other hand, reality is before us: happiness and job security, pension benefits, high-quality Jewish and moral education at an affordable price, and a neighborhood where friends are abundant.

There are pros and cons to each situation, but my fears of making yerida are tremendous. How does one approach this dilemma realistically and wisely? We agree on the issues, but disagree about the solution. I might add that our relationship is as strong as ever: my wife is the greatest wife and mother that one could possibly dream of.

Yerida Yellow
Ma'aleh Adumim

Dear YY,

A year in the US does not constitute yerida. Not would such a year totally jeopardize your pension (if you make the proper arrangements). And there's nothing like attending every family *simcha* to remind you why leaving all that behind did not seem like such a terrible thing at the time.

What puzzles me is your "fear" of yerida. If you are happy here in so many respects, you need not make a permanent exit — unless you end up wanting to do so. Your wife's homesickness deserves serious consideration. None of the bliss you describe — including marital — will last if your wife remains unhappy.

Letters should be addressed to: "Dear Ruthie," POB 81, 91000 Jerusalem. (Ruthie regrets not being able to guarantee publication of every letter, but will answer every letter received.)

The first Ethiopian immigrant teachers have begun work in Israeli schools and are making a difference.
Natalie Silverton reports

VORKENASH, help me with my multiplication table!

Vorkenash Mekonan, who teaches at Beit Shemesh's Jabotinsky School, casts a watchful eye over her third-graders and walks with self-confidence and authority around the room to the pupil who'd called for help.

New to an Israeli classroom this year, Vorkenash Mekonan is more than a teacher; she is a role model, but not in the standard sense.

As one of the first Ethiopian-born teachers in the educational system, she feels that she is making a clear statement to all of her pupils, regardless of ethnic background. To non-Ethiopian pupils, her message is: "I am Israeli." To Ethiopian youngsters she is saying: "You can make it, too."

She is one of 14 immigrant teachers throughout the country who have joined school payrolls, due to the determination of the David Yellin Teachers' College in Jerusalem. The college ran the first retraining course for Ethiopian-born educators, aided by the Joint Distribution Committee and the Education and Absorption ministries.

Previous experience was not enough for the new immigrants to resume the teaching careers they had left behind. They had to learn about life in Israel and about its school system.

"In Ethiopian society, hierarchy by age is supreme. Older people gain automatic respect," Shoshana Ornstein, the college's director of public relations, says. In Israeli society, a person has to earn that respect.

Schools work differently in Ethiopia, too. A teacher there does the teaching without engaging the pupils in discussion or



Vorkenash Mekonan introduces herself to her class of third graders at the Jabotinsky School in Beit Shemesh. (Edgar Asher/Israel)

fielding their questions.

Ornstein explained how a sign of respect in Ethiopian schools is to lower one's eyes when communicating with the teacher, not the Western standard of looking the person you address in the eye, regardless of status.

ACCORDING TO Ornstein, Ethiopian pupils and teachers "needed to learn to be more assertive, outgoing and not introverted," in short, to adapt to Israeli schools.

"They hadn't been taught disciplinary techniques, because there are few problems with classroom discipline in Ethiopia," Ornstein said of the immigrant teachers.

"Teaching in our classrooms presented a challenge they hadn't faced before. They were not as well equipped as Israeli teachers, so we brought them up to par."

Ornstein added that the idea behind the Yellin program was to "build on what they already had," by teaching them methodology and instilling in them a knowledge of Israel's language, culture and society.

The Yellin project also gave

the trainees a full support program. "The most important thing is to be like a family," says project coordinator Batya Maoz, who helps them through the many problems they encounter as immigrants. These range from leaky roofs to disagreements with absorption bureaucrats.

"They asked questions about how to dress their children for school," Maoz adds.

All of the program participants arrived with their families and often their extended families. They now have the responsibility of being the breadwinners. Mekonan's case is typical. When she discovered that she would have the opportunity to teach again she realized that she would have to cope with the pressures of studying and taking care of her family, including her two children, ages six and 12.

"At first, when I arrived in Israel, I didn't think I would be able to continue teaching," she says. In Ethiopia, being an educator is a high-status position; finding herself with the low status of a new immigrant came as a shock.

Six members of her group had

previously been school principals and one had been Ethiopia's education minister.

Beyond helping the immigrant teachers find work, the organizers did not realize the program's "ripple effect" of other benefits, as Ornstein describes them.

For example, she says, the country has gained competent, experienced teachers, particularly males, which it severely lacks.

The Ethiopians have broken stereotypes held by schoolchildren. Pupils are beginning to appreciate the teachers' heritage from pictures and firsthand accounts of the community's experiences.

"The fact that they are Ethiopian will generate curiosity in a class," Ornstein explains. "There is also an opening to teach tolerance toward different ethnic groups."

OFTEN, HOWEVER, it was the staff that longer to accept immigrant teachers. Mekonan admits, "Last year [during the training period], I was afraid to speak" to colleagues in the staff room. It took them time to step over language and cultural barriers.

ers. "Now, I am very happy. All the teachers seem to have accepted me," she says.

Maru Asmara, another graduate of the Yellin program, says problems with being accepted do not stem from the children in class, but can often come "from the school, from the teachers and from the municipality. [People have] a problem in Israel with working with educated Ethiopian people."

An Ethiopian-immigrant lobbying group found the same problem and reported that pupils of Ethiopian descent were being discriminated against in higher education.

However, the teachers are gradually being accepted into a variety of schools nationwide, reducing prejudice and opening the gates to an infinite range of career possibilities.

Program participants were involved in a wide range of activities, for example joining young Jews from around the world on the annual March of the Living to former concentration camps in Poland. Learning about the Holocaust was an essential component in their training.

"They cried a lot," Maoz recalls. "They felt like our brothers and part of our society. It reminded them of [their own] suffering during the wars in Ethiopia."

The trainees also had an opportunity to teach Amharic to Ethiopian-immigrant pupils up to matriculation level. This boosted the self-esteem of the teachers and the students.

According to recent statistics, only 7 percent of Ethiopian students living in integrated communities take matriculation exams. Ethiopian-born teachers raised the confidence and motivation of these youths and convinced them of the exams' importance to their future.

Amharic has also been taught to Israeli children from other ethnic backgrounds. The Education Ministry and Yellin are preparing textbooks for teaching the language.

After two years of intensive study, Mekonan seems content. It is easy to see in the way she patiently devotes time to each child the rapport she has with them and her gift for teaching. An affectionate hug from a little girl in the school corridor shows that she has been warmly accepted.

Education became the teachers' "lifeline to a new life in Israel," Ornstein says. "We didn't want to lose them [as teachers], and they didn't want to become lost."

Your days off are perfect for spackling

FIX IT YOURSELF

TAL KATZ

HOLIDAYS are those joyous times which put most of us on edge. So many visits to and fro, so many meals to prepare, so much cleaning to do before and after.

The prospect of raised familial eyebrows is enough to make us hit the hardware store, don the old work clothes, and get down to the business of home repair.

In response to one such reader's patching-up plans, today we are going to deal with wall spackling. It's time to fill in all those nasty little cracks and nail holes putting a damper on our decor.

Materials required: spackling compound (*shpachet lekir*) — sometimes called all-purpose filler or joint compound. The average price for a 5-kilo bag of dry compound is NIS 20.

(For minor repairs, lightweight premixed spackling compound is the simplest to use though it costs over three times more. It has low shrinkage and dries quickly. However, it is much harder to

spread, so is not advisable for bigger jobs); putty knife (*shpachet* — yes, the tool and material have the same name) — price range, depending on size and blade durability: NIS 2.50 to NIS 20. The wider the blade, the smoother the results.

Sand paper (*niyar zechuchit*), or, even better, a manual sanding kit (*mikan letesh yadan*). These cost between NIS 20 and NIS 40, but greatly facilitate wall sanding.

A pole sander (*mikan letesh im mifrak*) — costing about NIS 36 — can be attached to a broomstick for reaching ceilings and high-up spots on the wall.

It is not a good idea for laypeople to use drill attachment sanding discs, as one false move can mean unwanted scraping of the wall, and hence, extra spackling.

A soft-bristled brush (like the small brooms which come with dust pans); a sponge or kitchen rag; safety goggles (*mishkefet magen*); a flexible plastic contain-

er for mixing dry compound that is large enough to fit the width of the putty knife; a stick or knife for mixing the compound.

Directions

Read the instructions on the label of the compound. If dry (powder form), mix the appropriate proportions of water and compound in a flexible plastic container, with a stick or knife, until smooth.

With a corner of the putty knife, scrape around the inside of the hole or crack in the wall, in order to widen it and knock out loose debris.

Brush the hole and surrounding area with the soft brush. Wet the area with a damp sponge (compound will adhere better to a wet surface). Scoop a small glob of compound onto the

edge of the putty knife.

With a scraping/smoothing motion, run the edge of the putty knife along the crack or over the hole to ensure that the material gets lodged inside. If the area to be spackled is wider than your putty knife, use a long flat tool (such as a metal ruler) to insert and smooth.

Allow to dry until it is completely white in color. In cold or wet weather, this could take hours, depending on the depth of the hole. To hasten, blow dry on low temperature — moving the drier back and forth (not aimed directly) to avoid cracking the filler.

Since spackling compound shrinks as it dries, it will begin to recede. Apply another glob as before, and allow to dry. Repeat as many times as necessary, until

the filler protrudes a bit.

Wearing safety goggles to avoid getting dust in your eyes, sand in circular sweeping motions directly on top of the spackled spots, and around them, until all are flush with the wall.

The more care you take with this step, the better the results will be. After sanding, brush away all dust and other particles. Now you're ready to paint the wall.

Helpful hints: to dispose of excess compound which you've mixed in a flexible container, allow it to harden. Then, flex and bend the container (the way you do to get ice out of a plastic tray) until the hard lump comes out in one piece. Wash the container, and reuse.

To store premixed compound and prevent it from drying out:

scrape around the edges of the container (like cleaning the sides of a bowl with cake batter in it). Then stand the container straight to level the compound. Pour water over it to the height of 1 cm. Replace the lid, making sure it is completely sealed.

In response to a reader's inquiry about removing tea stains from a teakwood table: scrub the stained area with fine steel wool (*tzemer plada*) and teak oil (*she-*

men tik). If there is some kind of lacquer on the table, this may not work, or may cause the area to become lighter in color than the rest of the table. If so, you may have to remove all lacquer, scrub the whole table with teak oil, and then refinish.

If you have a question or can suggest simple solutions to annoying problems, write to: Fix It Yourself, POB 81, 91000 Jerusalem.

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DAVID BAR-ILLAN

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BUSINESS & FINANCE

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 1995

Balance of payments deficit rises

THE country's balance of payments deficit rose 12.8 percent in the first half of the year to \$2.53 billion from the same period in 1994, as the trade gap increased 15.5%, the Central Bureau of Statistics reported yesterday.

The balance of payments, or current account, includes the balance of trade and financial transfers.

The trade gap expanded to \$2.23b., as imports of goods and services jumped 16.8% to \$19.04b., while exports increased a sharper 17.4% to \$13.8b.

Defense imports were up

22.7% to \$590 million and civilian merchandise imports expanded 15.9% to \$12.35b.

Merchandise exports were 13.2% higher at \$9.14b.

Although service exports lag behind service imports, they rose 26.4% to \$4.67b., compared with an 18.3% increase in imports, which totaled \$6.1b.

Net unilateral transfers - including foreign aid, reparation payments from Germany and donations - jumped 18.2% to \$2.7b. Foreign aid increased 18% to

JOSE ROSENFELD

\$518m., German reparations rose 12.9% to \$411m. and private sector transfers expanded 24.8% to \$584m.

Unilateral transfers only covered 51.6% of the trade gap, compared with 57% in the first half of 1993.

The country amassed an additional \$1b. in debt to cover its balance of payments deficit.

The debt was partially offset by a \$600m. increase in foreign assets. The country's high shkel in-

terest rates in the first quarter attracted record high capital inflows of \$2.7b., as the Bank of Israel's foreign currency reserves jumped \$1.55b.

Commercial banks increased their foreign debt by \$842m. and reduced their foreign assets by \$1.2b.

Foreign direct investment reached a record \$970m., while investments abroad fell 37.1% to \$207m.

At the end of the first half of the year, the net external debt rose to \$18.2b. from \$17.7b. at the end of last year.

Siemens purchases Ornet for \$30 million

RACHEL NEIMAN

dent company in terms of development, production marketing and sales.

Ornet will expand its workforce from its current level of 40 employees.

A small Siemens management team will act as a contact group with Ornet. Siemens will cooperate with Ornet on technologies, marketing and sales and market Ornet products through its global sales network.

"The deal strengthens Siemens' position in the LAN market," said Dr. Ludwig Hoffman of Siemens Network Systems, who added that this was Siemens' first step into the LAN component market with its own products.

Prior to signing with Siemens, Ornet was jointly owned by a group of founders - managers Dr. Oran Berry and Eilon Litvitz, the Gemini Fund and the Walden Group. Negotiations were led by Gemini.

El Al awards contract for supply of meals

HAIM SHAPIRO

SHEFA, an independent local catering firm, has won the contract to supply meals for some El Al passengers in conjunction with a company owned by Air France.

Shefa is to set up a factory in Lod with Servair, the Air France catering company.

It is estimated the new plant will have a turnover of about \$10 million during the first year and supply about one-third of the meals for El Al passengers.

Until now, all El Al meals from here and most of the meals on short-haul return flights have been supplied by Tamam, El Al's catering subsidiary.

The new plant, which is to cost some \$5 million and extend over 4,000 square meters, is to supply cold meals within two months and hot meals in another seven months.

"We will serve El Al passengers tasty meals with a French flavor," said Shefa chairman Boaz Viser.

Servair is among the world's largest catering firms, with 20 industrial kitchens in China, the US, Africa and Mexico, as well as Europe.

It employs about 5,900 people worldwide and supplies some 350 different menus daily to over one hundred airlines and passenger trains.

It prepares some 20 million meals a year and has an annual turnover of FR 1.6 billion.

Shefa, among the largest local catering firms, currently supplies over 40,000 meals a year to such firms as the Electric Corporation, the Dead Sea Works and Israel Aircraft Industries.

It recently won a Defense Ministry contract to supply meals to army bases.

El Al spokesman Nachman Kleiman said his company opened the bidding in order to lower costs and thus offer more competitive air fares.

Plans announced for joint hi-tech park in China

JOSE ROSENFELD

INDUSTRY and Trade Minister Micha Harish and Chinese Minister of Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation Wu Yi yesterday announced plans for establishing a joint high-technology industrial park in China.

At a Jerusalem news conference, Yi said the industrial park would be located in Tianjin, which is close to Beijing - approximately "the same distance as between Jerusalem and Tel Aviv."

She noted that the choice was made due to the city's strong industrial base and workforce, as well as its convenient access to all means of transportation.

Tianjin is China's third largest city, with a population of 10 million. Yi said China wants to create a "high-tech industrial village that will bring medium- and small-sized enterprises into China."

Harish noted that the Israeli industrial park is still in the planning stages and the effort would be led by Tianjin-born Elbit President Emmanuel Gil.

Elbit has already signed a joint venture with the Tianjin Post and Telecommunications Authority to set up a telephone and cable television network.

Harish said the industrial park would take advantage of China's plentiful workforce and production capacity to expand the production of Israeli technological goods.

Responding to concerns raised



Chinese Minister of Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation Wu Yi (right) exchanges economic cooperation protocols with Finance Minister Avraham Shohat yesterday as Treasury International Division director Ehud Kaufman (center) watches. China and Israel also announced plans for establishing a high-tech industrial park in Tianjin, China.

by the US's dispute with China over intellectual property rights, Yi said China is committed to protecting intellectual property rights and is signatory to several treaties and conventions.

In addition, the National People's Congress is legislating intellectual property right laws, and an agency has been established to oversee that such rights are protected.

According to Yi, the argument with the US stems from the American demand for retroactive

protection. She noted that China could ask that retroactivity apply back a few thousand years, with China claiming its proprietary rights over gunpowder and paper.

China is also rejecting the demand that US domestic laws prevail over international law.

Finance Minister Avraham Shohat signed an agreement with Yi that will make available a \$150 million line of credit to Israeli companies investing in China through the Israel Foreign Trade

Risk Insurance Corporation. Shohat said Israeli firms will now be able to immediately go ahead with \$75m. in investments.

Harish said the countries have signed an agreement to promote regional trade in their respective areas: China will help Israel in the Far East, while Israel will promote Chinese trade in the Middle East.

Yi is heading a delegation of government officials and business people representing 17 Chinese firms.

Teva close to deal for Hungarian firm

HUNGARIAN government officials will meet representatives from Teva today to agree on the details of the sale of Hungarian pharmaceutical company Biogal Rt., according to the Hungarian daily Vilaggazdasag.

Teva will either buy 50 percent of the company with an option on the rest, or buy the company outright for a price below Biogal's \$32.6 million shareholders equity, the paper said.

Hungary's state Privatization and Holding Co. wants to introduce Biogal's shares, which trade over the counter in Budapest, to the Budapest stock exchange before the company is sold.

Teva first expressed interest in Biogal in 1992, but the government was unwilling to sell a majority stake in the firm.

(Bloomberg)

Robomatrix settles suit

RACHEL NEIMAN

ROBOMATRIX Technologies announced it has settled a class-action suit brought against it by a shareholder group.

The plaintiffs claimed the company failed to make certain disclosures in its IPO prospectus, which served as the basis of share purchases made in January 1994 and shortly thereafter.

Robomatrix said yesterday it denies the claims and makes no admission of any wrongdoing or liability.

Under the settlement agreement, the plaintiffs will not receive any cash, but Robomatrix will finance the expenses of administering the settlement up to \$110,000.

The plaintiffs will receive 250,000 ordinary shares of Robomatrix and warrants to acquire 200,000 ordinary shares at \$3 per share for a period of three years.

At the same time, principal shareholder Heinrich Mander, who served as a director of Robomatrix, will purchase 250,000 ordinary shares at \$2 per share (plus 200,000 warrants) in compensation for recent financing given to Robomatrix by Mander.

"We feel the settlement contains a very positive aspect," said Robomatrix president Zami Aberman. "Since the plaintiffs will be receiving shares and warrants in the firm, they have become - in essence - partners in our efforts to rebuild Robomatrix."

Shareholders file appeal against payment to Pass-Port founder

RACHEL NEIMAN

TWO Pass-Port shareholders have filed an appeal in the Tel Aviv District Court against the board of directors' \$1.5 million payment to company founder Joe Elmaleh and Avi Toledano, his right-hand man.

The shareholders, Ya'akov Tessler and his son Avigdor, want to nullify all decisions made by Pass-Port's board of directors at the general shareholders meeting on July 11, 1995.

The Tesslers said there was insufficient time after the announcement of the annual meeting to grant power of attorney and that lack of information made it impossible for shareholders to formulate their voting policy.

The appeal cited Pass-Port's refusal to allow access to information concerning the purchase of Regina Vacuum Cleaners (which caused a NIS 30 million loss) and the purchase and sale of traded securities, which caused a NIS 24m. loss last year.

In addition, the Tesslers said the \$1.5m. payment to Elmaleh should have received approval not only from the board of directors but also from shareholders, and that payment is disproportionately large.

"The amount coming to Elmaleh and Toledano following their retirement should be calculated based on Pass-Port's profits and a rise in the value of their investment according to company results of June 30, 1995," the appeal said. "It is reasonable that the results of Pass-Port's activity as will be reflected in upcoming quarters will not justify payment of such sums."

Pass-Port net losses for the first half of the year were NIS 8.49m., compared with net losses of NIS 16.3m. Revenues were NIS 513,000, compared with NIS 9.2m.

Residents' redemptions of foreign investments net \$78 million

JOSE ROSENFELD

RESIDENTS' foreign investment redemptions overtook new investments in the first half of the year, netting \$78 million, the Bank of Israel reported yesterday.

Provident and mutual funds cashed in their foreign stock holdings as fund members bailed out in droves earlier this year, the bank said.

Overall foreign investment totaled \$609m., while redemptions amounted to \$687m.

Foreign securities investments and capital investments were almost even in the first half of the year as they reached \$309m. and \$300m., respectively.

However, securities redemptions were higher than capital and

security investments together at \$628m.

About half the redemptions came from mutual and provident funds, although their share of the country's investment portfolio abroad only amounted to 28% of the total at the end of last year.

The Bank of Israel said the funds' redemptions were a direct result of the large redemptions by their members earlier this year.

The portfolio of foreign investments abroad totaled \$4.87 billion at the end of June, a 7.5 percent rise from the end of last year.

The value of the portfolio of tradeable foreign securities held

by the public also increased 3% to \$1.74b., despite the wave of redemptions due to the rise in the market price of the securities.

Most of the increase in foreign capital investment reflected large acquisitions abroad by local industrial concerns.

To a lesser extent, computer software, construction and hotel firms also contributed to the rise.

Real estate investments abroad soared to \$67m. from \$35m. during the first half of last year.

Most of the real estate investments were made by local real estate firms.

Total foreign capital investments reached \$3.13b. at the end of June, up from \$2.83b. at the end of last year.

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Mekorot plans to undergo organizational changes

RACHEL NEIMAN

NATIONAL water manager Mekorot will undergo organizational changes, the Agriculture Ministry announced yesterday.

Agriculture Minister Ya'akov Tsuri was presented with a survey of the water sector and Mekorot's plans for development during a

visit to the company yesterday.

Mekorot board chairman Shalom Shiran and general manager Amos Epstein suggested turning Mekorot into a holding company, managing two main subsidiaries.

The first would manage the national water sector, while the second would develop new applications such as water purification, urban water management and bidding on outside contracts.

Tsuri said he welcomed Mekorot's initiative, adding there will be a great need for additional water in the area.

Several alternative methods will be necessary, including additional cisterns, improvement of water recycling methods and establishing local and regional purification plants.

ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS

Patish (foreign currency deposit rates) (27.9.95)				
Currency (deposit for)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS	18 MONTHS
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	5.000	5.000	5.125	5.125
U.S. dollar (\$100,000)	4.750	4.750	4.875	4.875
U.S. dollar (\$50,000)	4.500	4.500	4.625	4.625
U.S. dollar (\$25,000)	4.250	4.250	4.375	4.375
U.S. dollar (\$10,000)	4.000	4.000	4.125	4.125
Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates (27.9.95)				
Currency basket	Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell
U.S. dollar	3.4250	3.4844	3.4250	3.4844
German mark	2.5800	2.6400	2.5800	2.6400
French franc	2.0100	2.0700	2.0100	2.0700
Japanese yen (100)	4.9970	5.0770	4.9970	5.0770
Swiss franc	0.0050	0.0051	0.0050	0.0051
British pound	2.3650	2.4250	2.3650	2.4250
Dutch guilder	1.8000	1.8600	1.8000	1.8600
Swedish krona	2.8950	2.9550	2.8950	2.9550
Spanish peseta	0.0070	0.0071	0.0070	0.0071
Portuguese escudo	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Italian lira (1000)	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Belgian franc (100)	1.0100	1.0300	1.0100	1.0

Muster, Tarango slated for Israel Open

HEATHER CHAIT

THE world's No. 3 tennis player, Austrian Thomas Muster, will be the highest ranked player ever to compete in the \$275,000 Eisenberg Israel Open to be held in Ramat Hasharon from October 9-15.

Muster, with a record 11 ATP titles this year, including the French Open, will be making his fourth appearance in Israel.

Although Muster will be the obvious choice for top seed, he will not be alone in the field. Italy's Andrea Gaudenzi, ranked 18 in the world, can count Goran Ivanisevic and Muster himself among his recent victims. Returning favorites to Ramat Hasharon are Spain's Javier Sanchez (48) and Stefano Pescosolido from Italy (75), the 1993 winner.

Another past winner, Jeff Tarango (78) from the United States, who has been making headlines through his notorious behavior on court, rather than his tennis, will be seeded fifth.

This year will mark a first-time attendance of a Moroccan player, the personable Karim Alami (74) who won this month's Tashkent Challenger and whose recent conquests include Pete Sampras and Aaron Krickstein.

Among the players from the 17 competing nations are Australia's

Richard Fromberg (81) and Jason Stoltenberg (139), both here for the first time.

Among the three Israelis to be given wild card entries will be Gilad Bloom in recognition of his contribution to Israeli tennis.

President of the Israel Tennis Centers, Dr. Ian Froman, was enthusiastic about the tournament. "While we've never had a player like Muster here before, all the players have unbelievable talent."

While the action on court will not disappoint, the excitement will stretch beyond the court's confines. The "Fan Fest," aimed to bring the life of tennis players to the fans, will present an "Autograph Island," where the players will meet their fans, sign autographs and chat in a relaxed atmosphere.

In other tennis news, in the first day's play of the Israel Championships in Jerusalem, top seed Eyal Ran struggled against Raviv Weidenfeld before winning 6-7(5-7), 7-5, 6-2 and second seed Eyal Erlich defeated Tomer Dank 7-6(7-4), 6-2.

Noam Behr defeated Danny Erez 6-3, 3-1 after Erez retired injured and qualifier Ronni Ben Harshim outplayed Ran Avraham 7-6(7-5), 6-3.

Blackburn stopped cold

TRONDHEIM, Norway (Reuters) - Norwegian part-timers Rosenberg beat Blackburn Rovers 2-1 in their European Champions' League Group B match yesterday, the English title holders' second Scandinavian humiliation in successive seasons.

Stale Stensaas, set up by a neat pass back from teenage substitute Steffen Eversen, smashed a blistering left-footed drive past Blackburn 'keeper Tim Flowers four minutes from time to give the Norwegians an unexpected but deserved victory.

Kjell-Petter Looken put Rosenberg ahead in the 30th minute and Mike Newell equalised for Rovers after 63 minutes.

Spartak Moscow lead Group B with a maximum six points after two matches. Rosenberg are second with three points, while Blackburn and Legia Warsaw have none.

Blackburn crashed out in the first round of the UEFA Cup last season, beaten by part-timers Trelleborgs of Sweden.

In other soccer action yesterday: UEFA CUP (first-round, second-leg matches) Werder Bremen (Germany) 5, Glenavon (Northern Ireland) 0 (halftime 4-0). Score: Bernd Hobsch (20th, 30th, 39th, 50th, 57th, 72nd) pen, Ulf Borowski (80th). Werder Bremen with 7-0 on aggregate. UEFA CUP (first-round, second-leg matches) Spartak Moscow 2, Legia Warsaw 0 (1-0). Score: Fedor Smolov (42nd min, 63rd min). Spartak Moscow with 2-0 on aggregate. UEFA CUP (first-round, second-leg matches) Borussia Dortmund 2, Borussia Mönchengladbach 0 (1-0). Score: Jürgen Kohler (20th, 72nd), Dortmund with 2-0 on aggregate. UEFA CUP (first-round, second-leg matches) Borussia Dortmund 2, Borussia Mönchengladbach 0 (1-0). Score: Jürgen Kohler (20th, 72nd), Dortmund with 2-0 on aggregate.



COMING THROUGH - Werder Bremen's Erhan Albayrak (1) and Alan Murphy of Northern Ireland's Glenavon FC fight for the ball during yesterday's match.

Mike Newell (80th). Spartak Moscow 2, Legia Warsaw 0 (1-0). Score: Fedor Smolov (42nd min, 63rd min). Spartak Moscow with 2-0 on aggregate. UEFA CUP (first-round, second-leg matches) Borussia Dortmund 2, Borussia Mönchengladbach 0 (1-0). Score: Jürgen Kohler (20th, 72nd), Dortmund with 2-0 on aggregate.

Maccabi Haifa's mission impossible

DEREK FATTAL

STATE Cup holder Maccabi Haifa takes to the field tonight at Kiryat Eliezer in the return leg of its first round Cup Winners' Cup tie against Sporting Lisbon.

When the draw was made the Haifa management looked forward to a packed house for the fixture, but Maccabi's humiliating 4-0 defeat in the first leg has killed off a significant amount of local interest in the game, and less than 10,000 fans are expected through the turnstiles. To remain in the competition Haifa needs to score five goals without conceding.

The Haifaies are still trying to find their rhythm this season, and barring a miracle, look certain to suffer the same ignominious fate that has recently befallen the country's other representatives in European competition.

Maccabi coach Giora Spiegel has indicated that a number of changes will be made to the opening line-up that collapsed like a tower of cards in the Portuguese capital two weeks ago. Uruguayan international Edgardo Adinolfi is likely to bolster the midfield and defender Moshe Glan could earn a recall to the side to help contain Pedro Barbosa who wrecked havoc on his way to scoring a hat-trick in the first meeting.

Spiegel has impressed upon his players the need to preserve honor by registering a victory. Nevertheless, given that Sporting rarely needed to hit top gear in the first leg, that objective could prove elusive for Maccabi who look a pale shadow of the side that fought so valiantly to lead Puzos at the end of extra time in the same competition two years ago, but lost in the resulting penalty shoot-out.

The match begins at 6:30 pm local time and will be broadcast live on ITV's Channel One and Israel Radio's Second Network.

Welsh squad named for European c'ship match

LONDON (Reuters) - Manchester United striker Ryan Giggs's return from injury was a boost to Welsh manager Bobby Gould when he named his squad yesterday for next month's European championship qualifier against Germany.

Giggs, who has played in only two of Wales's eight qualifiers so far, is back in the squad but Gould has lost Crystal Palace defender Chris Coleman for the October 11 match in Cardiff because of suspension.

Gould has brought in Andrew Melville of Sunderland and is considering using Leeds midfielder Gary Speed, who scored the winning goal against Moldova three weeks ago, in defense.

"I have spoken to Gary about that possibility and he has no ob-

jections at all," said Gould. Tranmere goalkeeper Danny Coyne has been drafted into the squad, taking over from Queens Park Rangers' Tony Roberts as deputy to Neville Southall.

Wales is in fifth place in the six-team qualifying group seven. Germany, who play Moldova three days before the Cardiff match, lies second.

Squad: Goalkeepers: Neville Southall (Everton), Danny Coyne (Tranmere). Defenders: Adrian Williams (Sheff Wed), K. Syme (Manchester City), Andrew Melville (Sunderland), Stephen Jenkins (Swansea), Mark Bowen (Newcastle). Midfielders: David Phillips (Nottingham Forest), Barry Hearn (Everton), Mark Phillips (Sheff Wed), Gary Speed (Leeds), Glyn Hodge (Sheff Wed), Gareth Williams (Newcastle). Forwards: Mark Hughes (Chelsea), Ian Rush (Liverpool), Dariusz Szamotulski (Gillingham), Nathan Aspin (Sheff Wed), Ryan Giggs (Manchester United).

Maxwell joins Sixers

PHILADELPHIA (AP) - Vernon Maxwell, suspended for 10 games from the Houston Rockets last season for hitting a fan, signed Tuesday with the Philadelphia 76ers and will shift from shooting to point guard.

His signing comes five days after the 76ers added Richard Dumas, a promising forward whose brief NBA career has been marked by two drug suspensions.

"It's not a risk with Vernon Maxwell and Dumas - it's fun," coach and general manager John Lucas said. "Now I've got to do my job off the court with them, as well on the court."

Although terms of the contract were not disclosed, Maxwell said he had better offers from Charlotte and Indiana, but chose the 76ers because of Lucas.

He said Lucas, a former Rocket guard who has known Maxwell for the past seven years, has been "like a big brother to me."

The 76ers had scheduled a news conference for yesterday

when they were expected to announce the signing of North Carolina's Jerry Stackhouse, the No. 3 pick in the draft.

The 76ers went 24-58 last year, the fourth worst record in the league. The additions of Maxwell and Dumas give them more of the speed they will need to play the up-tempo offense and pressure defense Lucas wants.

Maxwell, given a leave of absence during last year's playoffs, was released on June 30 by the Rockets, for whom he played for the past six seasons after spending his first two with San Antonio.

His troubles last season began after he went into the stands in Portland and struck a fan who he believed was taunting him. The league suspended him for 10 games and fined him \$20,000.

Maxwell, who has averaged 13.7 points a game over his pro career, will play point guard for the 76ers now that Dana Barros has signed with Boston.

Schumacher crashes on German highway

BITBURG (AP) - World champion Michael Schumacher has proven he can handle the lightning speeds of a Formula One circuit, but he had some trouble yesterday on a busy autobahn.

Schumacher got into heavy traffic near his home in Kerpen and while fiddling with the radio realized too late that traffic in front had stopped.

"I wasn't paying attention. I didn't notice the traffic jam. The accident was clearly my fault," the 26-year-old Schumacher later said.

With his Renault doing about 80 kph, Schumacher swerved to avoid the emergency lane but his fender got caught on the back corner of the truck.

The angry truck driver got out and was shocked to see who had hit him.

"The man suddenly wasn't upset anymore and we had a nice talk. I gave him an autograph," Schumacher said in Bitburg, where he had an advertising appointment.

He said no police were called since it was a minor accident.

Schumacher is to start testing today for this weekend's Grand Prix race at Nurburgring in the Eifel region, after coming in second at Estoril in Portugal on September 17.

Schumacher currently leads his closest rival, England's Damon Hill in the season's championship standings with 72 points to 55.

New York breaking away in scramble for AL wild card spot

MILWAUKEE (AP) - Paul O'Neill hit a two-run homer and drove in three runs as the New York Yankees beat the Milwaukee Brewers 5-4 on Tuesday, tightening their grasp on the wild card berth.

The Yankees increased their lead for the fourth playoff spot to 1½ games over California.

Sterling Hitchcock (10-10) scattered five hits over seven innings and left with a 5-2 lead before the Yankees' shaky bullpen made it interesting by allowing two runs on four hits and a walk in the eighth.

John Wetteland earned his 30th save by striking out pinch-hitter David Hulse with two on to end the eighth and retiring the

side in order in the ninth.

In the third, Wade Boggs singled off left-hander Scott Karl (5-7) and scored on Randy Velarde's triple. O'Neill followed with his 21st homer for a 4-0 lead.

O'Neill added a sacrifice fly in the seventh off Kevin Wickander after Pat Kelly tripled, making the score 5-2.

Mariners 10, Angels 2

Jay Buhner and Ken Griffey Jr. each homered to help host Seattle move closer to its first AL West title with a 10-2 victory over California.

The Mariners have won 22 of 30 to move 13 games over 500 and have a three-game lead over the Angels, who have lost 27 of 36.

Seattle has a season-high seven-game winning streak.

Buhner hit his 38th homer and club-record 12th of the month and

Griffey had his 16th and ninth since returning to the lineup August 15 after missing almost three months with a broken left wrist.

Andy Benes (7-1) ran his winning streak to five games, allowing eight hits over 7½ innings.

National League Rockies 7, Dodgers 3

Larry Walker hit two home runs and Bret Saberhagen won for the first time in nearly eight weeks as visiting Colorado moved back into first place in the NL West.

Walker's second homer of the game off Tom Candiotti (7-14), a two-run shot to right-center following a leadoff walk to Dante Bichette in the sixth, snapped a 2-2 tie. Ellis Burks hit a two-out, two-run single in the eighth and Joe Girardi had a two-out RBI single in the ninth.

Saberhagen (7-6), who has been plagued by an inflamed right elbow and was pitching for the first time in 10 days, limited the Dodgers to seven hits and three runs, two earned, in 5½ innings.

Wild Card Glance

AMERICAN LEAGUE
New York 75 65 538
California 73 66 525 1.5
Texas 71 68 511 3.5

GAMES REMAINING
NEW YORK (4) - Away (4): at Milwaukee, yesterday; at Toronto, Sept. 29-Oct. 1.
CALIFORNIA (5) - Home (4): Oakland, today; Oct. 1; Away (1): at Seattle, yesterday.
TEXAS (5) - Home (4): Oakland, yesterday; Seattle today-Oct. 1.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Los Angeles 76 65 538
Houston 74 66 532 .5

GAMES REMAINING
LOS ANGELES (4) - Home (1): Colorado, yesterday; Away (3): at San Diego Sept. 29-Oct. 1.
HOUSTON (5) - Home (1): Pittsburgh, yesterday; Away (4): at Chicago today-Oct. 1.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Tommy Hearns isn't hanging up the gloves

Thomas Hearns, 36 years old and long past his best days in the ring, scored a unanimous decision Tuesday night over journeyman Earl Butler in a 10-round cruiserweight bout.

Hearns, 55-4-1 in his 18-year professional career, knocked Butler down in the second and fifth rounds as he built a big early lead before his hometown fans at The Palace of Auburn Hills.

Newcombe keen to retain job

Former Wimbledon champion John Newcombe wants to stay on as captain of the Australian Davis Cup tennis squad despite its dismal record under his leadership.

Australia was beaten 3-2 by Hungary in Budapest at the weekend, tumbling out of the elite World Group for the first time.

Newcombe's two-year contract now has expired. Nominations for the captaincy will open shortly and an appointment is expected to be made next month.

With 26 titles, Australia is second on the all-time Davis Cup list, behind only the United States.

O'Neal, Olajuwon to go one-on-one

Shaquille O'Neal, who has been in town filming a movie, "Kazzam," is ready for his close-up with Hakeem Olajuwon. O'Neal and Olajuwon go one-on-one Saturday in match of two of the NBA's most dominant players.

"Hakeem Olajuwon is a great player, but this is one-on-one. There's no double-teaming, no coaches," said O'Neal, whose Orlando Magic lost to Olajuwon's Houston Rockets in the NBA Finals.

"I grew up playing one-on-one. It's pretty simple," O'Neal said. "If he takes a shot that hits the rim and I get the rebound, I'm going to take it to one spot and try to get it to the basket before he gets there."

Their matchup at the Trump Taj Mahal in Atlantic City will consist of 10 two-minute "rounds," with each round worth \$100,000 for a \$1 million purse.

Cavs trade Price to Bullets

Mark Price, a four-time All-Star point guard and the NBA's all-time leader in free throw accuracy, was traded to the Washington Bullets yesterday.

Details of the deal were not immediately available, but the move was confirmed by an NBA source who spoke on condition of anonymity. The Cavaliers had scheduled a late-afternoon news conference.

Price, 31, a 6-footer from Georgia Tech who was Dallas' No. 2 pick in the 1986 draft, was acquired by the Cavaliers later that year in exchange for a second-round pick in the 1989 draft.

The Bullets, which had the worst record in the Eastern Conference last season, had been seeking a high-profile, veteran point guard to run its talented but young frontcourt, which includes Juwan Howard and Chris Webber, a restricted free agent who has not yet re-signed with Washington.

Wide baseball result: Yankees 6, Brewers 3

David Cone, working on three days' rest for the first time in four years, pitched eight strong innings yesterday and the New York Yankees beat Milwaukee 6-3 for a two-game lead in the wild-card race.

The Yankees increased their lead for the extra playoff spot over California, which played later in Seattle.

RATES

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WEEK RATE (6 insertions) - NIS 280.80; each additional word NIS 28.08
FOUR FRIDAYS NIS 382.70 for 10 words (minimum) each additional word NIS 38.27

MONTHLY (24 insertions) NIS 561.80 10 words (minimum) each additional word - NIS 56.18

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SALES

Report to PM: Deal with Syria unlikely in 1996

ALON PINKAS
and news agencies

A WRITTEN assessment submitted recently to Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin by an official government organ contends that the stalemate in talks with Syria is real, and that the November 1996 US election renders progress even less likely.

US Secretary of State Warren Christopher, however, said yesterday that the time may be ripe to nudge Syria toward peace with Israel.

A cabinet minister close to Rabin said he "generally agrees with the assessment and is in no hurry to initiate any drastic moves in the talks with Syria, especially in light of elections in Israel and the upcoming implementation of the Oslo 2 agreement."

"Rabin was sincerely and genuinely interested in a deal with Syria. In fact, as far as he was concerned there was a 'Syria first' policy in 1993 and for most of 1994. But now we are entering a crucial election year and given the obstacles in the talks with the Syrians, I don't see the government opening a second political front, especially now that the agreement with the Palestinians has been signed."

"The strategic advantages of a peace agreement with Syria are tremendous, but the public will not feel its immediate effects. Nor will the public be disadvantaged by the absence of an agreement," the minister said.

The report estimates that President Hafez Assad "still shows no signs of urgency in reaching a deal with Israel. He believes that Israel's security demands, as presented by Chief of General Staff Lt. Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak to his Syrian counterpart in Washington last June, are tough and uncompromising and are designed to ensure an Israeli military presence on the Golan Heights."

The report, a periodic assessment of regional developments, also contends that Assad realizes the US election is bound to eclipse the Middle East, and that President Bill Clinton will be unable in 1996 to get the financial assistance an Israeli-Syrian deal may require.

Interviewed on NBC's *Today* show, Christopher said he expects today's signing of the second-stage Israeli-Palestinian accord to give Syria new reasons to make peace.

"I think it may be the moment to move on the Syrian track. I find that progress on one track tends to encourage the other tracks," he said.

Christopher said he expects to visit the Middle East in the next two or three weeks to press for more progress toward a comprehensive peace.

He did not say whether his next trip would be in conjunction with his previously scheduled attendance of an economic summit in Amman at the end of October, or whether he would make a separate trip in advance.

Christopher rejected criticism by his predecessor, James Baker, that the US might not be moving aggressively enough to help bring about an Israeli-Syrian peace.

"In this situation the parties have to be ready," he said. "The Syrian party and the Israeli parties have not been ready... One has to have the sense of the time to move, the moment to move."

Baker said in an interview with Reuters this week that he believes a deal could be made between Israel and Syria, "but I don't think it will happen without some overall assertive diplomacy on the part of the US in the form of presenting options, in trying to break some of the deadlocks involving the security question."



Comrades of Pvt. Ori David, 19, killed in Lebanon on Monday, console each other at his funeral yesterday in Holon. St.-Sgt. Aviv Mor, who was also killed in the same mortar attack, was buried at the Carmel Beach military cemetery in Haifa. (Israel Sun)

Beirut to boycott economic summit

BEIRUT (Reuters) - Lebanon has formally announced it will boycott next month's economic summit in Amman, saying it is premature to discuss economic cooperation while a state of war exists between it and Israel.

"We will not attend the Amman conference," Prime Minister Rafik Hariri said in a dialogue with 300 businessmen and economists on Tuesday night. "We think the Amman summit is premature because we will be discussing matters that are based on a premature situation."

"We are still in a state of war with Israel and there is fighting in south Lebanon, and despite that we talk about how we want to cooperate with each other. These are two matters that can not meet logically."

Foreign Minister Faris Bourez told reporters yesterday the Amman summit is "one link in the chain of normalizing ties" with Israel and part of multilateral peace talks. As such Lebanon had decided to boycott it.

Syria said last week that it will also boycott the Amman summit.

Both Damascus and Beirut refuse to attend multilateral peace talks with Israel before tangible progress is reached in bilateral peace talks.

But Hariri said Lebanon will attend the Barcelona conference in November - also to be attended by Israel - as "we have an essential interest in it because it is a conference that will discuss how the Mediterranean basin countries can be helped."

He told the businessmen that even after peace with Israel, Lebanon is opposed to the establishment of a regional development bank - a proposal floated in March by the US.

"Even if occupation of our land ended, our opinion in this idea is that we have no interest in it," he said. "I think many other countries hold similar opinions because setting up the bank, its capital and its work as planned... is not in our interest and we do not support its establishment."

Jordan, Israel, Egypt, and the Palestinians are in favor of establishing a development bank with a suggested capital of \$5 billion.

Immigrant unemployment down, but still high

JOSE ROSENFELD

IMMIGRANT unemployment dropped to 9 percent in the second quarter from 9.6 percent in the previous quarter, but was more than 45 percent higher than the national average of 6.2 percent, the Central Bureau of Statistics reported yesterday.

The number of employed immigrants rose 9.6% to 228,000, with a corresponding 8% drop in the number of unemployed immigrants to 23,000.

Male unemployment remained at 7%, while female unemployment decreased to 11% from 12%.

The percentage of unemployed immigrants dropped in direct proportion to the length of their stay in the country. Those who arrived last year had the highest unemployment rate of 20%,

while the rate for 1992-93 arrivals dropped to 9%, decreasing further to 8% for immigrants from 1991. The unemployment rate for immigrants from 1990 was lower than the national average at 6.5%.

The bureau reported that in the first quarter, 24% of the immigrants had scientific or academic jobs, 35% were employed as skilled workers, 15% were service workers, and 6% clerks.

About 34% of immigrants were employed in industry, 13% in health and welfare services, 9% in trade and car maintenance, 9% in public services, 7% in construction, and 6% in educational services.

Immigrants made up 12% of the employed workforce, and 19% of the unemployed.

Iranian hijacker formally asks for asylum

THE Iranian flight attendant who hijacked a passenger plane to Israel last week formally asked for asylum yesterday, declaring his love for the Jewish people in a petition to an Israeli court.

Reza Jabari, 29, is considering converting to Judaism and wants to find an Israeli wife, attorney Shmuel Saadya told The Associated Press. "He wants a fresh start in life and he wants to make it here... and marry here," Saadya said.

In a petition filed with Beer-sheva Magistrate's Court, Jabari, a Moslem, argued that he "never had the opportunity" to freely choose his religion and is now questioning it.

No reaction to the request was available from the Justice Ministry. A Foreign Ministry official said an asylum request is complicated by the fact that Jabari may have to face criminal charges for the hijacking.

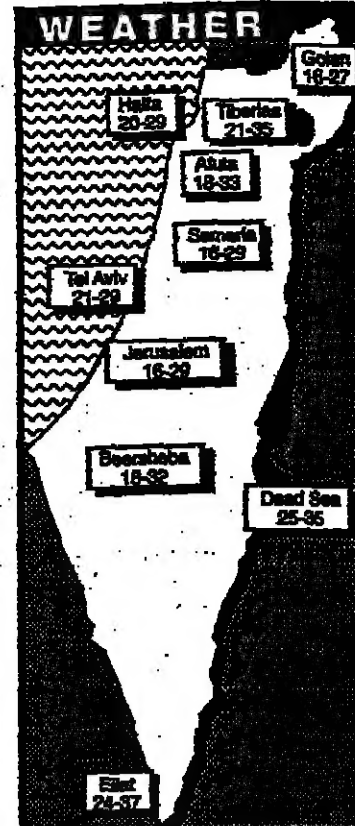
Police had said he is being investigated for air piracy, hijacking, weapons possession, and infiltration. Saadya argued his client, who has spent eight days in jail, should be released because no charges have been pressed against him so far.

The court is expected to discuss Jabari's petition tomorrow.

There were initial reports that Jabari wanted asylum in the US or Britain. But an Israeli official said those countries ruled out the possibility. Officials here have said they wanted to hand Jabari to the International Red Cross.

Jabari has said he wanted to alert the world to the oppression of the Iranian people under the fundamentalist regime in Tehran.

On Sunday, he spoke to his parents in Tehran in a call apparently arranged through a third country, Saadya said. (AP)



Forecast: Fair and slightly warmer in the hills.

AROUND THE WORLD			
	Low	High	Notes
Amsterdam	10-12	12-14	
Berlin	10-12	12-14	
Brussels	10-12	12-14	
Geneva	10-12	12-14	
London	10-12	12-14	
Madrid	10-12	12-14	
Moscow	10-12	12-14	
New York	10-12	12-14	
Paris	10-12	12-14	
Rome	10-12	12-14	
Tel Aviv	10-12	12-14	
Tokyo	10-12	12-14	
Washington	10-12	12-14	
Zurich	10-12	12-14	

Winning cards
In yesterday's Mifal Hapayis daily Chance card draw, the lucky cards were the jack of spades, jack of hearts, queen of diamonds, and seven of clubs.

Expelled Palestinians return to Gaza cursing Gaddafi

ALLENBY BRIDGE (Reuters) - About 180 Palestinians expelled by Libya to protest the Israeli PLO peace accord returned to the Gaza Strip yesterday after lingering for weeks under scorching desert heat.

Three buses loaded with men, women, and children, followed by a trailer piled high with their luggage and belongings, crossed the Allenby Bridge. Many cursed Libyan Leader Muammar Gaddafi for deporting them and spoke of weeks of waiting at a no man's land on the Libyan-Egyptian border in harsh conditions, with hardly any food and water, no tents or toilets, and bad sanitary conditions.

"Animals have a better life than the one we had in the last month of waiting," said Saad Agha, who was carrying her two-month-old baby Ahmed. "Thank God, Ahmed and my seven other children survived. They had diarrhea all the time."

The group started arriving by boat at Akaba from Nuweiba on Saturday. But they were unable to go to Gaza because the bridge had been closed for Rosh Hashana.

"If you saw us there, you would have cried," recalled Asma Hinni. "We lived under tents we made from tying together our clothes and blankets on a tiny strip of land surrounded by barbed wire and land mines."

The official Libyan news agency JANA on Tuesday denied Tripoli had given the remaining 30,000 Palestinians in the country 48 hours to leave.

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, meanwhile, appealed to Gaddafi to stop expelling Palestinians. Arafat was speaking after talks with French President Jacques Chirac during a brief stopover in Paris on his way to Washington for the Oslo 2 signing ceremony.

Updated extradition request for Abu Marzook filed

JACOB DALLAL

THE police foreign affairs division submitted an updated request for the extradition of Hamas leader Musa Abu Marzook, being held by the US, to Jerusalem Magistrate's Court yesterday.

The updated request is based on additional material gathered since the original request was issued in July.

"Evidence exists which point to the involvement of the respon-

dent in criminal acts of murder, attempted murder, manslaughter, and aggravated assault..." the petition said.

Israel decided to ask for the extradition of the former leader of the Hamas political bureau after he was caught trying to enter the US, where he resides.

Abu Marzook is believed to have coordinated Hamas terror attacks against Israeli targets over the last several years.

Yeshiva University backs gay student associations

MARILYN HENRY
NEW YORK

A LEADING Talmudic authority is backing Yeshiva University's reluctant support of gay student associations, saying the cost of barring them is "too high."

Discrimination against the associations would violate New York City law, and would endanger the university's accreditation and funding, wrote Rabbi Moshe Tendler, an Orthodox authority and a professor of biology at YU.

"Many Torah institutions, including Agudas Yisroel signed 'non-discrimination' clauses to receive government funding," Tendler wrote last month in a letter to an unidentified YU alumnus.

In the last year, the existence

of gay organizations at YU has come to be seen as a battleground for the soul of the historically modern Orthodox, but non-secular university.

Despite a torrent of publicity, YU's administration repeatedly has declined to discuss the gay

associations, other than to say the university's support is indirect and is limited to what civil law demands.

With four campuses in New York, as well as campuses in Los Angeles and Jerusalem, YU has 16 undergraduate, graduate, and professional schools, with affiliates. If banning the gay associations "meant giving up a million dollars in government funding, I would urge banning these clubs so as to emphasize our commitment to Torah standards," Tendler wrote. But, if a ban resulted in closing the professional schools, "I would not ban the clubs."

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